

THE
ARCHITECT
& BUILDING NEWS

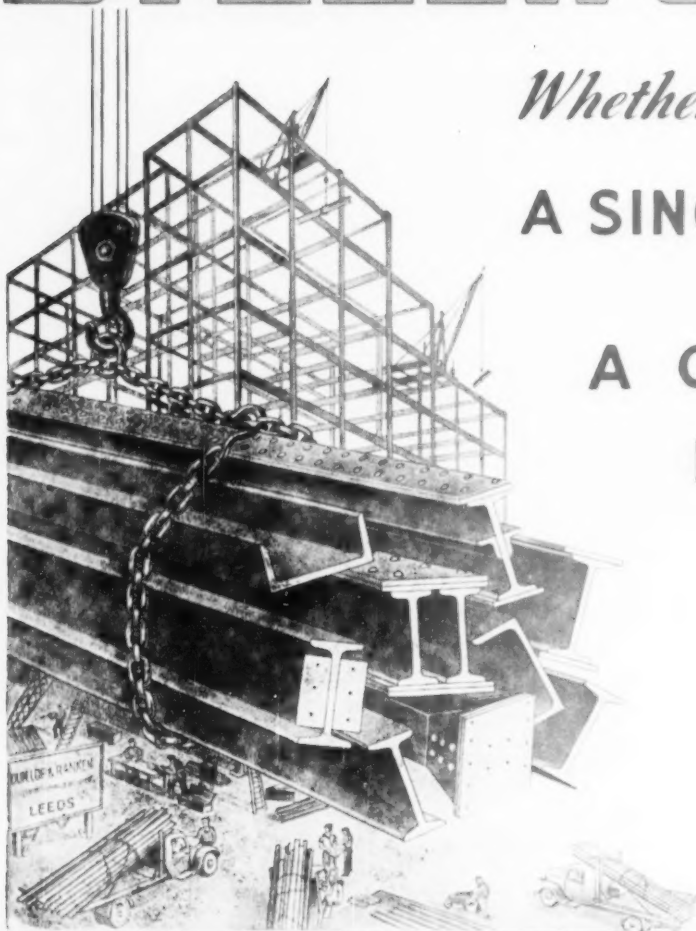
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THE CHANGING FACE OF MODERN BUILDINGS

MARCH 31, 1950 • VOL 197 • NO 4241 • ONE SHILLING WEEKLY

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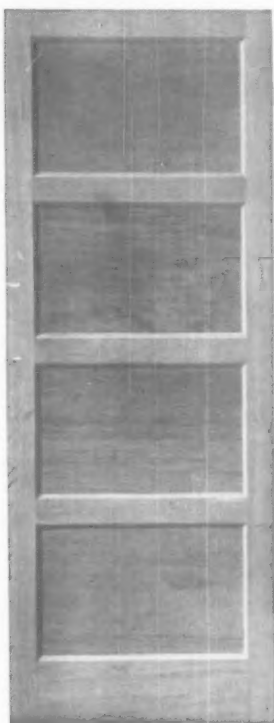
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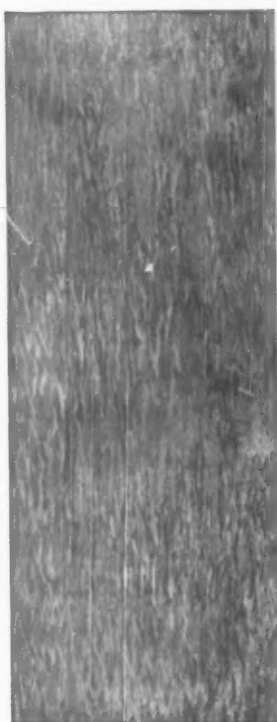
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High speed photograph by
Eric Hootings, I.R.P.S.

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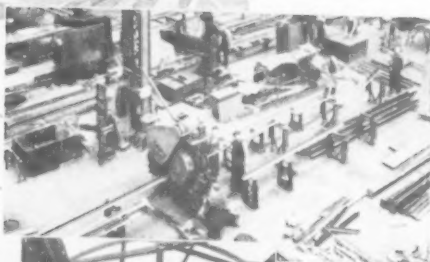
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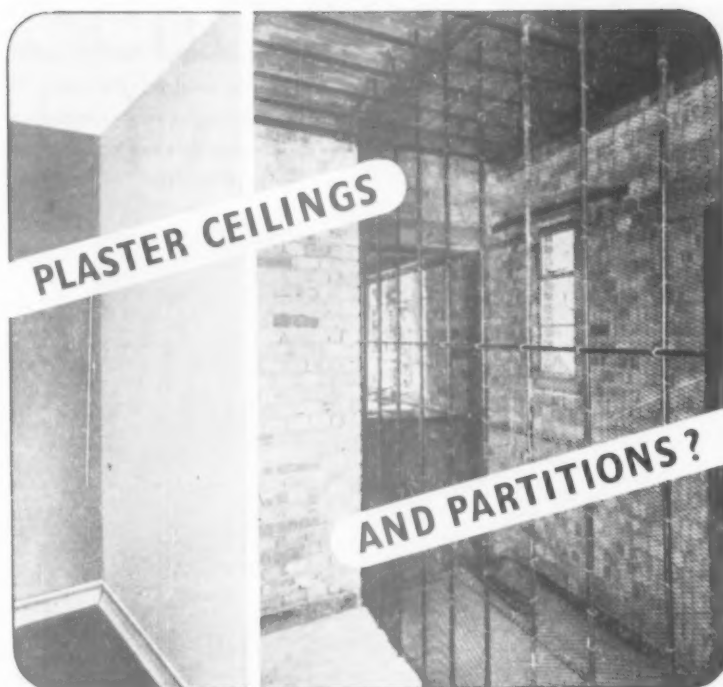


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Details of the contract carried out at the Indian Museum, Calcutta, are contained in a special folder (No. 788) available on request. Architects and Engineers are also invited to write for Catalogue No. 326, "Standard Specifications for Ruberoid Roofs."

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"ELECTRICITY TURNS OLD HOUSES INTO NEW FLATS" is divided into eight sections, which deal with water heating, kitchen planning, cooking, refrigeration, heating, laundry, wiring, and lighting; it is illustrated by photographs and diagrams which show how installations can be made with the greatest economy in cost and efficiency in performance.

Architects and builders are invited to write for copies

THE BRITISH ELECTRICAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION, 2 SAVOY HILL, LONDON, W.C.2

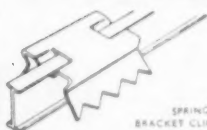
SPECIFY 'Rufflette' CURTAIN SUSPENSION SYSTEMS

BRAND

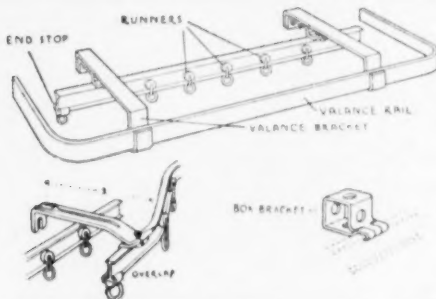
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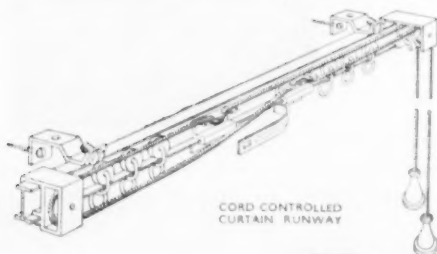
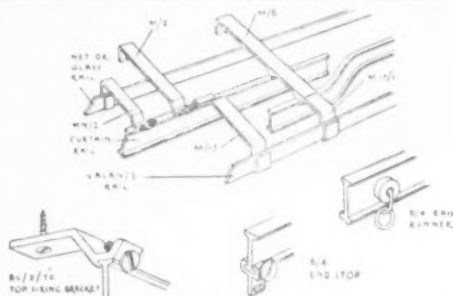
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 Also at BRITISH EMPIRE BUILDING, NEW YORK CITY, and 75, VICTORIA SQUARE, MONTREAL

*The Canteen at the British Electricity Authority's power station, Kingston, Surrey.**Photograph by courtesy of the British Electricity Authority***SEMASTIC****DECORATIVE TILES***(A Product of a Company in the DUNLOP GROUP)*

In the selection of any floor covering, initial outlay has to be balanced against the cost of maintenance and repairs. Good appearance and underfoot comfort have to be considered in relation to economy. In an industrial canteen, such as this at the British Electricity Authority's Kingston Plant, serviceability and cleanliness are equally important factors.

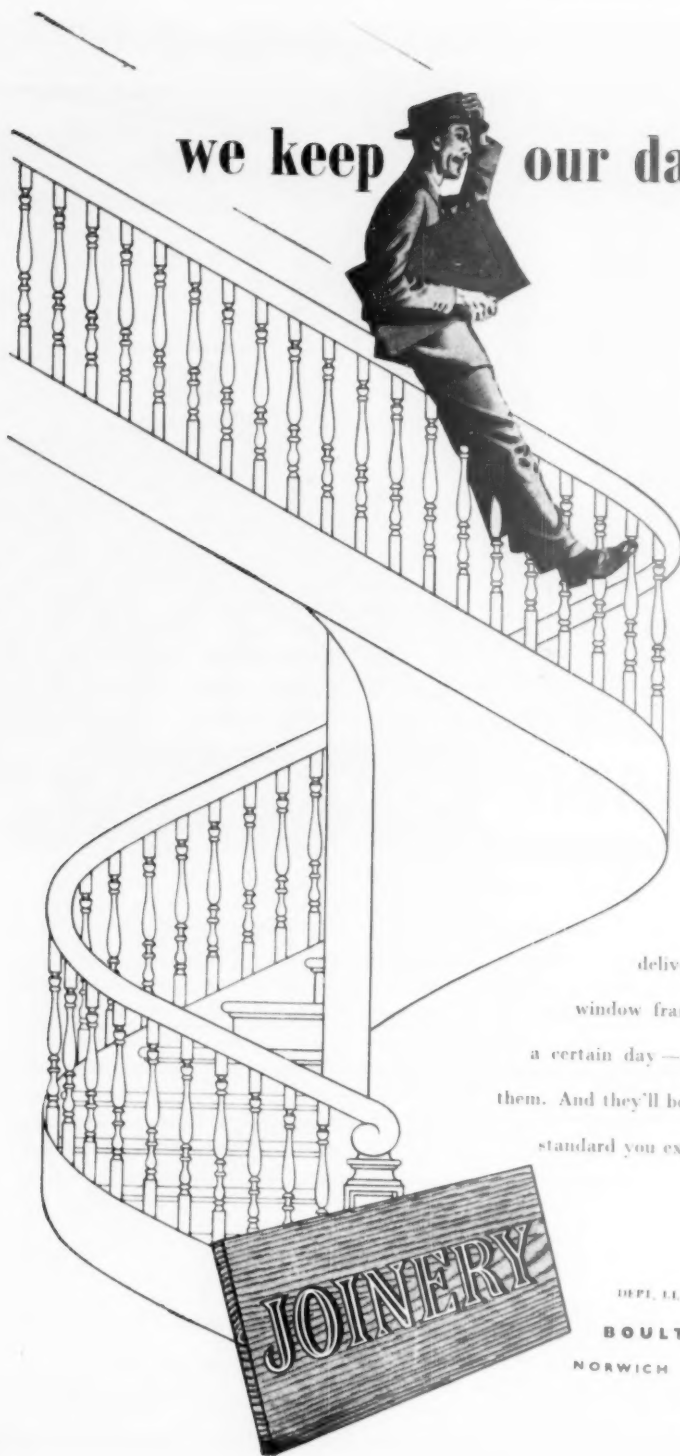
The British Electricity Authority has found that the best way of meeting all these requirements is to

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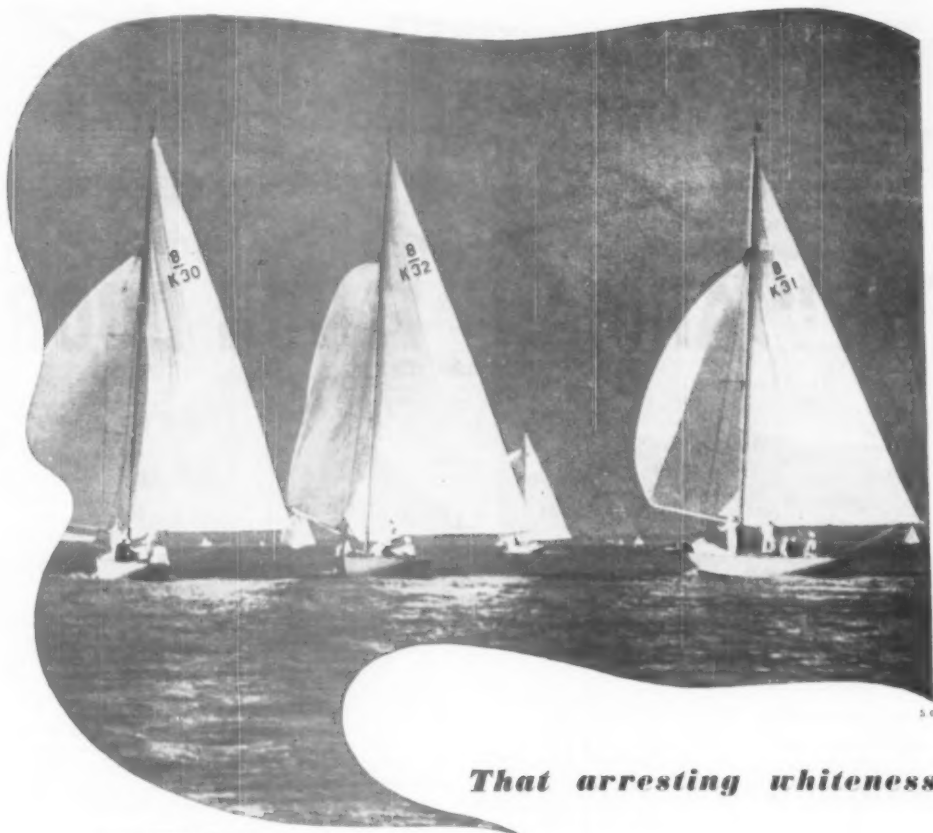


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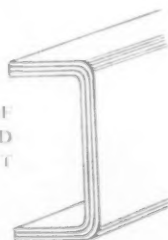
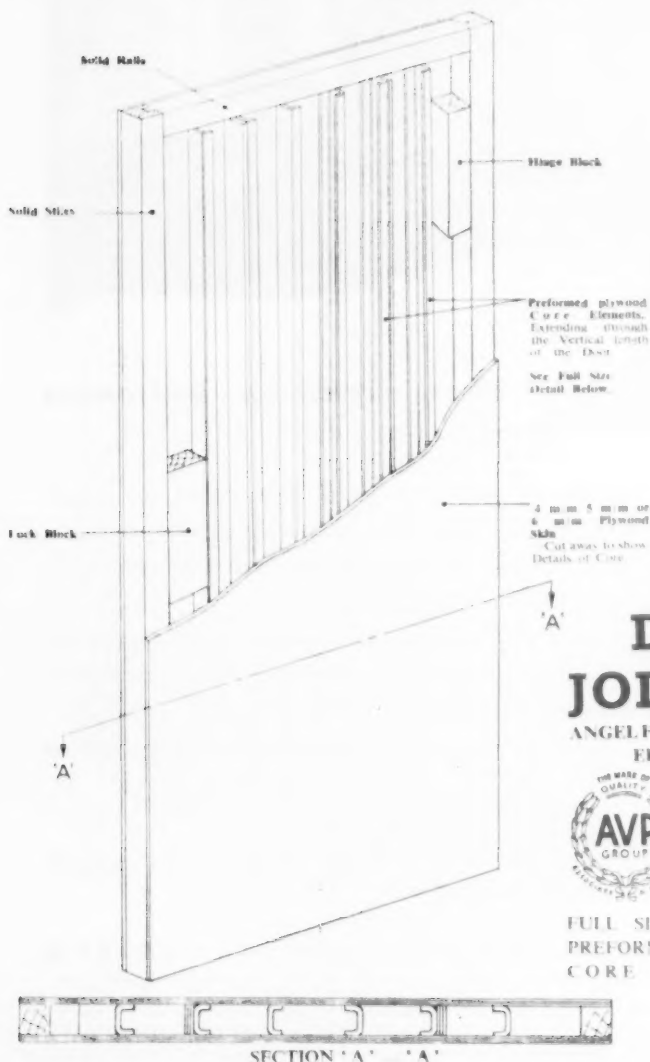
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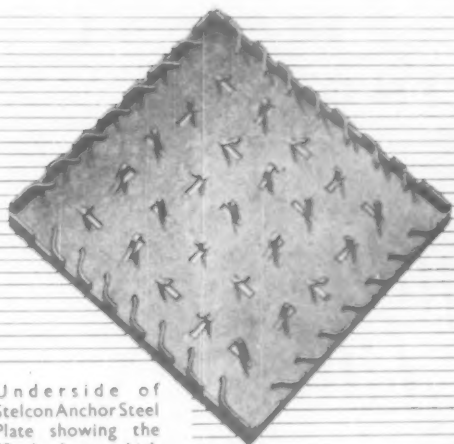
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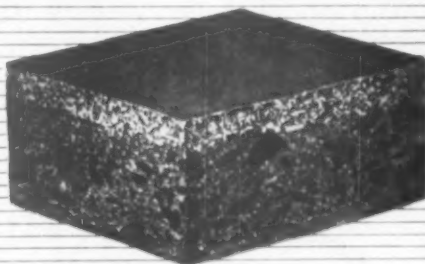
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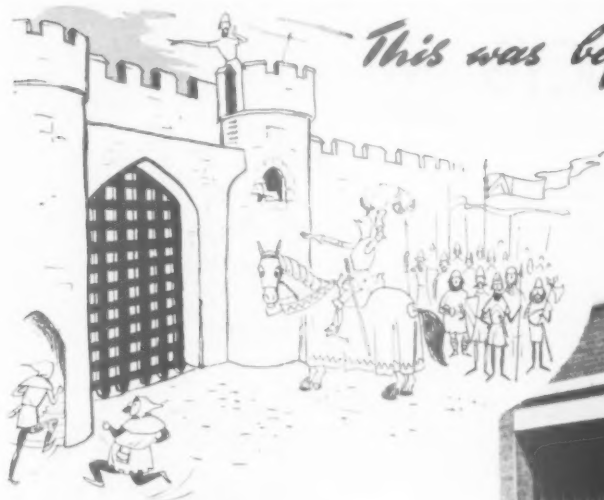
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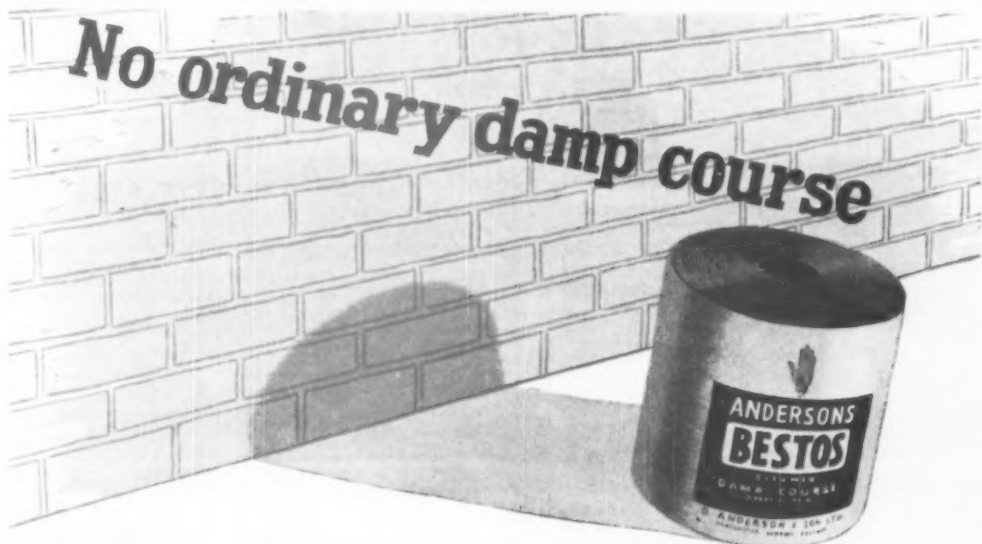
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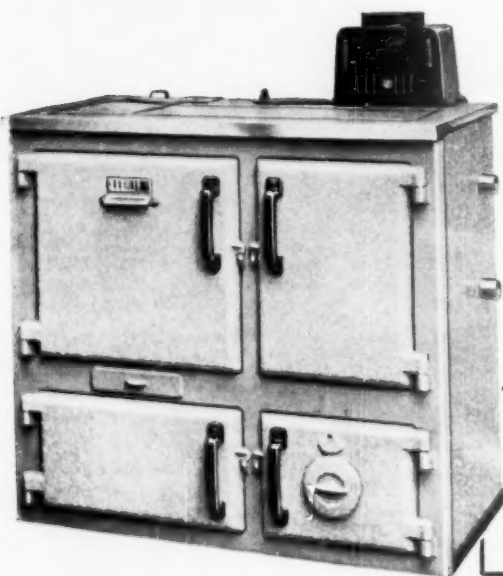
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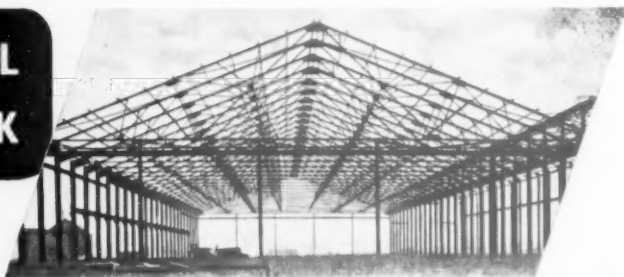
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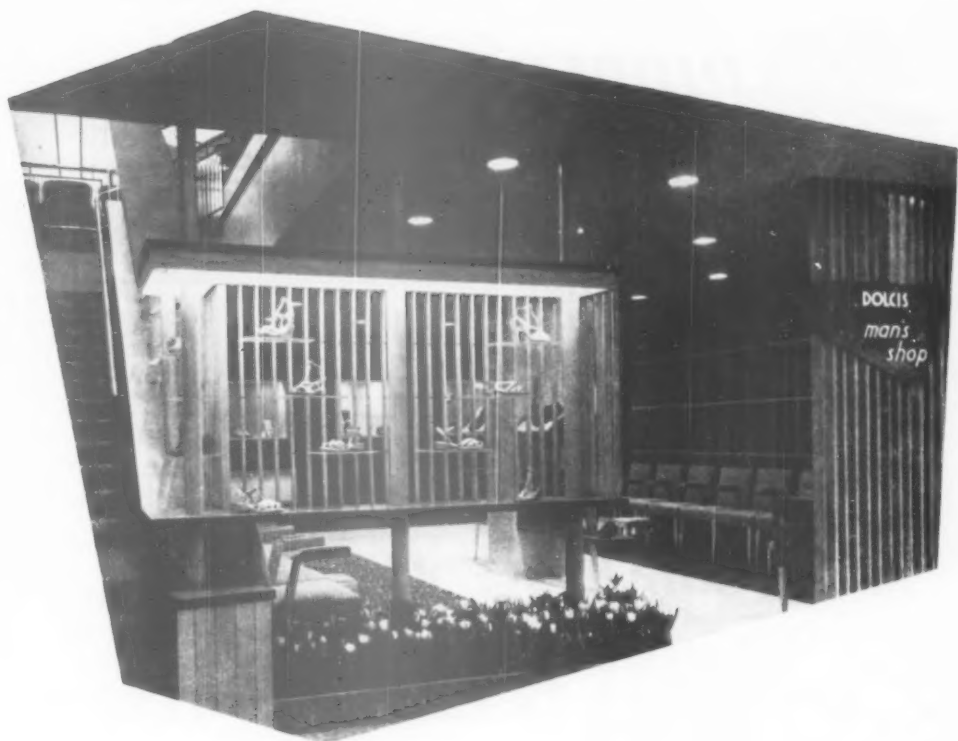


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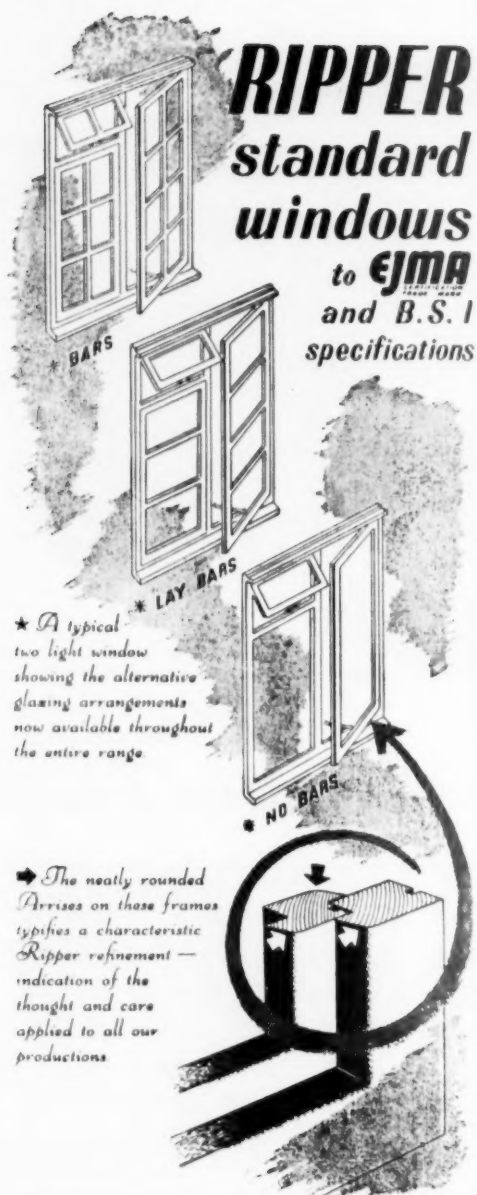
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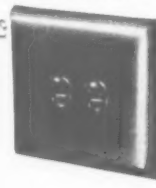
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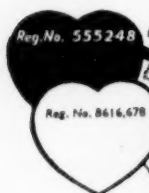
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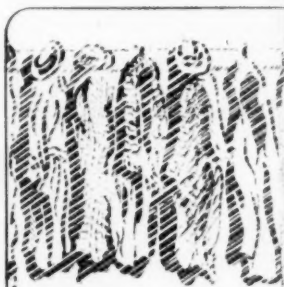
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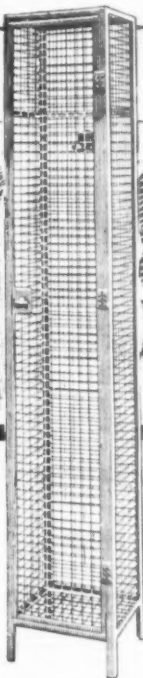
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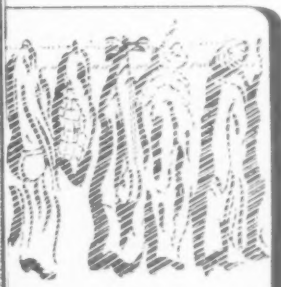


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RIPE OLD AGE

ATTENTION on the preservation of architectural heritage has again been focused by some observations of Dr. Selwyn, the Dean of Winchester. Some partial repairs have been carried out to the fabric of his Cathedral and in giving thanks for the successful issue the Dean reminds us that this sort of thing cannot go on *ad infinitum*.

Buildings do not get younger and as they get older and are neglected through long periods of war or of pseudo-bankruptcy, the greater and more serious are the necessities for repair and maintenance. Costs after each successive war or other inflationary period, go up and never seem to return to old levels. Endowments and increments, whether established by contract or voluntary matters little for the moment, are worth less or continually are reduced in number. So our old monuments suffer.

Who would be a Dean in charge of the fabric of an English Cathedral, to have as a primary duty, the problem of solving so impossible an equation, with so many unknowns and so many minus signs, to make it yield an intelligible answer?

Whose is this heritage anyhow? The Church—it has changed much since these Cathedrals were erected for man's use and for the glory of God? The Dean and Chapter—administrators for their church—The Church Commissioners—the state's watching brief and purse-string holders—distant and centralised? The Cathedral towns—so often indifferent to the problem through local cleavages or apathy? The Nation? If these things, these monuments of brick and stone are anything, they are the breath and marrow of our land—our national heritage.

The Cathedrals and our other major architectural treasures are, apart from any use to which they may now be put and that use may vary considerably from that originally intended, are *visual* bequests from the past—which have, to a greater or less degree, devolved

upon us to maintain as we receive them. It is no good crying over the neglect of the past or the Gilbert-Scottish and Cromwellian clearances and destructions; what we have to determine is what is really architecture and, therefore, visual heritage and what is not.

If the "active" life of a building is over and, like even a Cathedral, cannot all be adopted, in the present, for any other purpose, what is it? An empty shell only fit for museum show (if preserved) or for reduction to the status of a ruin (if allowed so to become). Ruins are also "visual" and have considerable charm and philosophic and poetic merit. Large numbers of a particular sort of space-occupying building about the place may mean that, in the present state of our purses, we must decide which members of a group are really great architecture and visually worthy and can be demoted to the ruin category.

After all, how long is it possible, reasonably, to preserve a building? Till it is all a "new" building with every stock and store renewed so often that, though in general mass it is the building we think we know, the edifice is really of us and not of the past? Here, of course re-enters the old controversy of the rival camps of "repair" and "reconstitution."

Even so, who should answer these questions and having answered them who shall meet the costs of carrying out the resultant programme of conservation of, say, in one sphere only, our Cathedrals? Dr. Selwyn suggested the State should help; though he seems to support indirect assistance through some sort of "Pilgrim Trust." There must, in other words, be no wedge-end for a greater or a total control of the Church by the State! We must not forget that France, Italy and Switzerland have solved this question in more or less completeness. Is it not about time that the architects, the historians, the Government and the Church got together round a table and

decided what we really mean by a "National Monument"—a national architectural inheritance—and when some basis for discussion is evolved then perhaps some determination can be made as to who shall do and who shall pay. As the Dean reminded us, there are such things as tourists with dollars in their pockets—though we are sure he did not mean to suggest that Cathedrals should become merely items in an export industry, hidden or otherwise.

★ ★ ★
SO the latest contribution to the fate of the private architect is to be made by one of the Metropolitan Boroughs. The Housing Committee for Chelsea recommended its Council that in future flats and houses shall be designed and supervised by the Borough Engineer, who is to be authorised to increase his architectural staff to the tune of £1,900 a year; i.e., we suppose, by about three extra qualified architectural assistants. Further, the Committee proposes, it says, to save £2,600 in fees within the next five years.

We are not told, in the reports before us, whether this "saving" includes office rent, rates, light, heat, cleaning, taxes, telephones, capital amounts and depreciation for equipment and so on, or whether it includes a proportion of the salaries of other departmental staff who help with this extra work or a pro-

portion of the salaries of the extra inspection etc., by Government and district auditors and others which may be involved. The private architect contributes more than designs on bits of paper and Chelsea ought to know it is so, for they have employed some well-known and highly qualified architects over a period of many years—and for flats.

The same Housing Committee suggests also that time in the preparation and approval of plans will be saved and that it (the Committee) will be able to express wishes and opinions on proposed designs at all the various stages, we hope it will be so! We look forward with great interest, if not confidence, to seeing the results of the joint-designing of flats by the Committee and the staff.

When will local authorities realise that it is only by pulling together on all sides and with the aid of all possible contributions—public, private, local and central—that results will be attained that are at once worthy, economical and speedy. The sort of sectionalisation and erection of artificial barriers proposed by the Chelsea committee—the sort of fantastic "economies"—are not conducive to solving the housing or any other problem. The report submitted by Committee mentions the R.I.B.A.'s scale of fees; we wonder what that body has to say about this proposal?

The Report went to the Borough Council on the 22nd of this month who passed it.



A better photo than the one previously published of the model of the 26 storey Moscow University now being built in the Lenin Hills. Progress, we are told, is rapid.

EVENTS AND COMMENTS

DESIGNERS IN BRITAIN

I HAVE only been able to snatch a glance at "Designers in Britain, 2," which recently, or so it seems, appeared, and it is a shock therefore to discover that the Society of Industrial Artists is already preparing "Designers in Britain, 3," which is due to appear in that year of years, 1951.

The S.I.A., backed by the C.I.D., is appealing to all commercial and industrial designers, whether or not they are members of the S.I.A., to submit work for the consideration of the selection committees. Full conditions can be obtained from The Editor, Peter Ray, S.I.A., 7 Woburn Square, London, W.C.1. Work submitted must have been designed since December 1948 for quantity production. Not more than ten designs can be submitted by any one designer or team of designers. The selection committees are: Commercial Design, Leonard Beaumont, F. H. K. Henrion and Lynton Lamb. Industrial Design, Milner Gray, Alec Hunter, and R. D. Russell.

COLOUR DICTIONARY

HAVE you ever tried to specify the colours of the Union Jack? Oddly enough, I have, but I gave up because I could find no one who knew what the correct colours were. The British Colour Council has now produced a dictionary of colours for interior (and I suppose exterior) decoration. No less than three hundred and seventy-eight colours are illustrated, indexed and cross-indexed with all their fancy names and, where they exist, their B.S. numbers. For example, Union Jack Red is CC 22, alias Scarlet Red, alias the Red of St. George and St. Patrick, alias the Red of Bunting and Army Scarlet, alias English Red, alias Tartan Scarlet.

This work is a most praiseworthy effort, but its success will depend on the welcome it receives from industry and the number of people who will consider it worth while to spend twelve guineas. I do not know what a country builder will do when he finds that a keen young, and presumably wealthy architect, has specified all his colours in the Dictionary code. The colour cards incorporated in the dictionary have been produced by the McCordale system of printing which, I understand, gives a high degree of accuracy in reproduction. The edition is limited to 7,000 copies; you must therefore hurry if you want a copy. All serious inquiries to The British Colour Council, 13 Portman Square, W.1.

WHOSE BATH WATER DO YOU DRINK?

I FIND it increasingly difficult to take seriously the results of social surveys based on what the average family is alleged to do. Many quite well intentioned and sober-minded bodies seem to me to have come unstuck on this popular method of the masses. The latest outfit to fall into temptation is the Ministry of Works, which in National Building Study Special Report No. 8 has sponsored an inquiry into the bath, washing, and washing-up water arrangements of some six thousand families. I feel certain that the tables which make up the bulk of this booklet are of immense value to someone, and so they should be, for, based on an aver-

age interview of twenty minutes for two people, the actual collecting of material must have taken some four thousand man-hours, which, as all keen young architects know, is equivalent to the time taken to erect I forget just how many traditional houses.

I find the report lacking in wit but full of unconscious humour. The impression I gain from it is that if you have no built-in bath you are unworthy to be British or a gentleman. All the same, some quite civilised countries seem to rub along well enough without baths at all, and in some not so civilised countries it is considered highly insanitary and even irreligious to wash in a container of still water.

As an objective report this publication leaves practically no stone unturned and makes one realise that there is plenty of room for improvement.

INDISPENSABLE ELLEN

ELLEN Schoendorff, who for the past three years has been preparing the reference sheets for the Information Bulletin of the Association for Planning and Regional Reconstruction, has left for America, where she will work for the Town and Country Planning Section of the United Nations Department of Social Affairs. There is at present no one to carry on her specialised work. In view of this and the falling off of subscriptions, the Board of A.P.R.R. have decided to discontinue publication of the Bulletin after the March issue.

Miss Schoendorff served for some time on a Study Group of the R.I.B.A. Architectural Science Board, where she proved most useful.

SOCIETY OF MURAL PAINTERS

THERE is much talk just now, and at least one summer school impends, on the subject of the interrelation of architecture, painting and sculpture. Architects and others who are interested will have an opportunity to discover something of the capabilities of living mural painters and the scope and probable cost of their work at an exhibition to be held by the Society of Mural Painters, under the auspices of the Arts Council, at the New Burlington Galleries from April 17. The exhibition will later tour the country.

I regret that I am somewhat deficient in appreciation of mural painting, finding the work of the popular masters in general highly disagreeable. I shall, however, look forward to this exhibition in the hope that I may be persuaded by it to see the light.

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL

THE Bishop of Coventry is reported to have said recently that no decision had yet been reached as to whether the competition for the new cathedral should be confined to British and Dominion architects or thrown open to competitors from all over the world. I am no thumping nationalist, but I must confess that I am a little put out by this statement. The bishop is reported to have continued that the view is held by many people that the best developments in modern architecture are to be found in France and Italy, and that there were hopes that in France, where the great tradition of English medieval architecture had its origin, might be found an architect of genius who had a feeling for Gothic and who yet might create something entirely new belonging to a new age. Well, there certainly MIGHT be, but all those medieval cathedrals were built a terrible long time ago, my dear Lord Bishop. I remain of the opinion that we should do our own reconstruction.

PRINTING EXHIBITION

THREE weeks ago I commented on the C.I.D. "Design in Business Printing" Exhibition and congratulated its unnamed designer who, I have since discovered, was Mr. K. G. Chapman, M.S.I.A., A.R.C.A., of Davy & Chapman. The exhibition is, I understand, being well attended and will go on tour on April 12.

HASTINGS NET HOUSES

IT is proposed to extend the Hastings promenade to the east. This would involve the destruction of the remainder of the tarred timber net houses which have been the cause of more third-rate water-colours than anything else in England excepting possibly Clovelly High Street. This in itself is scarcely sufficient reason for pulling down a unique group of buildings, but the fact is that if something is not done about them soon they will fall down. To pull them down merely to replace them with a promenade is a sad alternative, but timber is too scarce to justify the large scale repairs which are necessary. The progress of the seaside promenade which is destined eventually to encircle our island must not be delayed; there will be a mild protest, someone will organise a preservation fund, the houses will be pulled down and only photographs and those water-colours will be left. In Sweden it would be different; some of the net houses would be taken down and re-erected in the great open-air museum at Skansen. Perhaps something similar could be done at Hastings.

NATIONAL THANKSGIVING FUND

THE Lord Mayor of London's National Thanksgiving Fund was launched at the Guildhall some days ago. The object is to provide facilities in this country for Commonwealth and American students as a thank-offering for the millions of food parcels sent to this country during and since the war. In spite of generous Royal Patronage there have been mutterings about the appeal in the provinces and in one or two places it has been turned down flat. One can argue all ways about almost any appeal, and I do not propose to join in the fray, but if, as I understand is the case, some of the money is to be used to extend London House and still

further ruin Mecklenburg Square, I personally shall not feel encouraged to contribute. I have nothing against London House as an organisation, but the provision of buildings with steel frames and medieval exteriors is in my opinion not the way to thank anyone nor to compensate young men for being unable to obtain places at Oxford or Cambridge.

PUB DESIGN COMPETITION

THE results of the *Architectural Review* Competition for the interior design of a public-house will be announced at the opening of an exhibition of the designs submitted on April 4, at the Victoria and Albert Museum. The exhibition, which will remain open until April 28, will be held in the large gallery on the ground floor to the left of the main entrance. The winning designs will also be exhibited at the Brewers' Exhibition in October.

BELFAST HOUSING

IN a recent letter to *The Times* Mr. Terence O'Neill pointed out that in Northern Ireland rents are being kept down by building smaller houses. He also stated that although the reduction of standards of accommodation is distasteful, it does provide an answer to a part of the housing problem. It will be interesting to see for how long the Ministry of Health will stick to its present standards, which seem to me to be considerably beyond the resources of the country to maintain.

CHELSEA AND 1951

IT is a pity that the Festival of Britain is becoming more and more a political issue. Chelsea, having failed to reach the Cup Final, is making up for it by taking it out of Mr. Morrison by boycotting the Festival. One councillor referred to the Festival as "a monument to Morrison's mismanagement," and another was "proud that Chelsea should lead the way in this censure." It was stated by the Socialist opposition that suggestions for the Festival were inexpensive, such as the tidying up of streets, posting of signs and the marking of places of interest. It seems absurd to object to such proposals, especially when they are things which

NEWS OF THE WEEK

Corby New Town

The Minister of Town and Country Planning has decided on a New Town at Corby, Northants, following the public inquiry which was held at Corby on November 29 and 30, 1949.

He has approved the draft designation order but has made important modifications designed to safeguard land of major importance for agriculture and ironstone working. This involves reduction of the designated area from 3,550 acres to about 2,500 acres.

The Minister considers that provision should be made for an increase of the present population of 14,000 to 40,000 but he is aware that so substantial a reduction in the area designated will complicate the task of the Development Corporation. The reservation is however made in the Minister's decision letter that if when the Development Corporation's outline plan is available, it becomes apparent

that this is the case the Minister will consider whether a further order should be made.

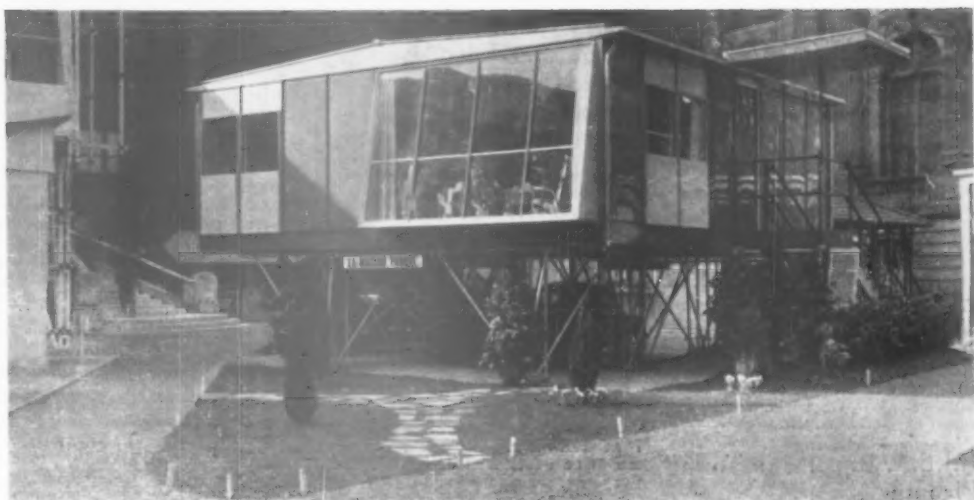
Main object of the new town is to provide for an increase of population arising from the expansion of Messrs. Stewarts and Lloyds works in Corby, but the new town must also provide not only housing but the social and commercial services needed for a population of this size. Consideration will also be given to the provision of employment for those not employed in the steel works.

Rome Scholarship in Architecture, 1951

The Faculty of Architecture of the British School at Rome have made certain important changes in the competition for the Rome Scholarship of 1951. Candidates will be admitted to the competition only if they have passed the final examination of the



Mr. W. E. Rice, C.B.E., J.P., President L.M.B.A., in 1942, who becomes Mayor of Westminster on May 25.



The Jean Prouvé house

THE French Ideal Home Exhibition had only a small architectural section but containing two really interesting exhibits: a full size flat from the Le Corbusier *Cité Radieuse*, already published in the *A. & B.N.*, and a Jean Prouvé prefabricated house, designed by Henri Prouvé, which can be put together in two days. It costs about £2,000.

The house weighs about three tons, covers 64 square metres and includes two bedrooms, a living room, kitchen and bath. It can be extended if required by adding sections.

The house, which stands on a steel scaffolding, is made up of steel and aluminium. The roof is also in aluminium. Factory production takes about a month.

The manufacturers say that the present price can be reduced by 30 per cent when the house is ordered on a large scale. The Ministry of Reconstruction has asked an aeroplane construction plant to undertake the manufacture of 4,000 houses a year.

Dozens of visitors to the Exhibition asked if it would be possible to obtain a loan on the house but building societies have refused stating that at the moment they will only advance money on stone and concrete.

The only other interesting exhibit was a series of models showing town planning projects for France's destroyed cities. These include all the towns in the north as well as many in Brittany, including Lorient, etc. The Ministry of Reconstruction was responsible for the stand.



R.I.B.A. or one of its recognized equivalents. Applications for admission will be examined by the Faculty and not more than twelve candidates will be chosen to take part in the first stage of the competition, which will consist of a 32 hour "en loge" test to be held in London. On the result of this test will be chosen the candidates to compete in the final stage of the competition for which a separate programme will be set and in which there will be no "en loge" examination. Candidates will be given not more than twelve weeks to complete their designs in their own time and place.

Applications for admission to the competition must be sent not later than October 16, 1950, to the Hon. General Secretary, British School at Rome, 1 Lowther Gardens, Exhibition Road, London, S.W.7, from whom full particulars may be obtained.

R.I.B.A. Diploma in Town Planning

The following applicants having passed the qualifying Examination, have been awarded the R.I.B.A. Diploma in Town Planning: Brian W. B. Ball, David K. Graham-Cumming, Clive R. W. Peake, Paul H. G. Rexilius, Roy D. Thornley, A.A.R.I.B.A.

M.o.W. London Regional Office to Close

The London Regional Director of the Ministry of Works (Capt. C. H. Kitchin, R.M., ret'd.), relinquishes his appointment on March 31, 1950. On that date the London Regional Office, 2/19 Cornwall Terrace, Regent's Park, N.W.1, ceases to function as a Regional Office.

Regional services directly affecting the Building and Civil Engineering Industries in London, such as assistance to contractors in provision of plant and plant hire, and questions of building materials, will be handled from headquarters at Lambeth Bridge House. Building Controls, including Licensing, Registration, Programmes and Statistics, will remain at 17 Cornwall Terrace (Tel. Museum 5030).

The London Regional Building and Civil Engineering Joint Committee (renamed the London Building and Civil Engineering Joint Committee) will be under the chairmanship of a senior official of the Ministry at Lambeth Bridge House.

OBITUARY

The death occurred on March 20, of Mr. Alexander James Morrison, registered architect, of Aberdeen.

The death occurred on March 23, of George Gunn, A.R.I.B.A., of Glasgow, aged 77.

The death has been announced of Mr. Samuel J. Stainton, F.R.I.B.A., of Birmingham. Mr. Stainton was a partner in the firm of Cherrington and Stainton, and was President of the Birmingham and Five Counties A.A. in 1947 and 1948.

Employment of Architectural Staff for Future Housing Development

At the meeting of Chelsea Borough Council on March 22, the following report by the Staff and General Purposes Committee was considered and the recommendation agreed by the Council.

We have considered a report by the Housing Committee on the architectural staff required for future work on housing schemes already approved by the Council which could be carried out under the supervision and direction of the Borough Engineer and Surveyor, as opposed to the employment of private firms of architects.

We are informed that if the Hortensia Road, Lucan Place and Elm Park Gardens housing schemes, which are to be undertaken during the next five years, are planned and directed by the Borough Engineer and Surveyor, among other advantages accruing to the Council will be a considerable saving on architects' fees, together with a stepping up of the time taken in the preparation and approval of plans. In addition, the Council will be able more easily to express its wishes and opinions on proposed designs in all their various stages. The Housing Committee have expressed confidence that the Borough Engineer and Surveyor, with the necessary technical assistance, can, and will, design flats which will conform with the high standard of design and amenity aimed at by the Council and which at the same time will give every satisfaction to the occupiers and ratepayers of Chelsea.

If the foregoing proposals are adopted, the total extra salaries bill will amount to approximately £1,900 per annum when the staff have reached the maximum salaries in their appropriate grades, but we are informed that this figure is some £2,600 less than the average annual cost during the next five years which would be incurred if the work were done by architects paid in accordance with R.I.B.A. scales. The additional cost in salaries during the next financial year, however, is estimated to be £1,750. We are, therefore, in favour of the development of the foregoing housing schemes under the direct supervision of the Borough Engineer and Surveyor, rather than by the employment of private architects.

We consider that Mr. H. E. Pearce, I.R.I.B.A., M.Inst.R.A. (Architectural and Town Planning Assistant) should become responsible to the Borough Engineer and Surveyor for the control of the architectural staff of the Borough Engineer and Surveyor's Department, and that he should be granted an increase in salary in consideration of the additional responsibilities which will devolve upon him. We also consider that three other architectural assistants should be engaged immediately.

As no provision for this expenditure was included in the annual estimates, we have asked the Finance Committee

to submit supplemental estimates for £1,750 and, subject to their concurrence,

We recommend—

(a) That Mr. H. E. Pearce, I.R.I.B.A., M.Inst.R.A., be redesignated Chief Architectural and Town Planning Assistant and made responsible to the Borough Engineer and Surveyor for the control of the architectural staff of the Borough Engineer and Surveyor's Department, and that he be regarded in A.P.T. Grade VIII of the National Salary Scales, proceeding immediately to the maximum of that grade, viz. £760 per annum, plus London "weighting."

(b) That authority be given for the issue of advertisements inviting applications for the following additional appointments:—

(i) 1 Architectural Assistant—APT Grade V (£520—£570 per annum plus London "weighting"), £600 maximum.

(ii) 1 Senior Architectural Draughtsman—APT Grade IV (£480—£525 per annum, plus London "weighting"), £555 maximum.

(iii) 1 Junior Architectural Draughtsman—APT Grade II (£420—£465 per annum, plus London "weighting"), £495 maximum.

COMING EVENTS

T.D.A.

● April 1, at 7 p.m. At the Royal Scottish Forestry Society (Angus and Perth Region), Dundee. "Timber" Speaker: S. Lister.

● April 3, at 7 p.m. At Plymouth Technical College. "Study of Timber Technology." Speaker: W. E. Bruce.

● April 3, at 7 p.m. At Blackburn Technical College. "Sawmilling Brains Trust."

● April 4, at 6—7 p.m. At Bovis Ltd., 1 Stanhope Gate, W.1. "Structural Uses of Timber." Speaker: D. H. Moss.

R.I.C.S.

● April 3, at 5.30 p.m. "Land Surveyors and the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors." Speaker: G. Cheetham.

Royal Society of Arts.

● April 3, at 6 p.m. "The Manufacture, Properties and Applications of Aluminium and its Alloys." Speaker: C. J. Smithells.

Chadwick Public Lectures

● April 4, at 2.30 p.m. In the Livingstone Hall, London Missionary Society, 42 Broadway, Westminster, S.W.1. "Rivers pollution and the River Boards Act, 1948." Speaker: Charles E. Scholefield.

EXHIBITION

Victoria & Albert Museum, April 4-30. Exhibition of hand-made furniture organised by the Rural Industries Bureau.

ON THE AIR

April 5, At 9.15 p.m. to 9.45 p.m. Third Programme. "How Will the London Plans Work." Speaker: Professor W. G. Holford.

CORRESPONDENCE

Architects' Representation

To the Editor of A. & B.N.

Sir,—I notice in your issue of March 17, under the heading of "Events and Comments: Building in the New Parliament", you state that architects are virtually unrepresented in Parliament.

Although I have personally stopped practising, I am most actively connected with the interests of the architectural profession and the building industry, and I suppose I spend fully half of my time with their problems one way or another. Any matters of importance that occur I am always ready to take up, either by means of personal contact with the Minister concerned or by questions in the House.

Having had a pretty extensive practice not only in America, but in several other countries, one is able to bring a fairly wide knowledge of the subject to bear on these matters.

I am etc.,

ALFRED C. BOSSOM.

Corsham Summer School

To the Editor of A. & B.N.

Sir,—In your otherwise kindly note on the Bath Academy—A.A. International Summer School at Corsham you say that the "object of the exercise" is to "examine and discuss how best painting and sculpture may be 'applied' to architecture." What the prospectus actually says is that students will "consider *not* how painting and sculpture can be 'applied' to architecture, but how those arts can again become one."

One also wonders why some people still find the French language irresistibly funny.

I am etc.,

R. FURNEAUX JORDAN.

The Liverpool School of Architecture Society

To the Editor of A. & B.N.

Sir,—Before the war brought such gatherings to a close the Liverpool School of Architecture Society held several successful meetings and it is now proposed that the Society should again come into being with periodic meetings of a social, recreational and professional nature.

The committee which has been concerned with the fund for the Reilly Medal Award has agreed to continue in being as an organizing group in connection with the recommencement of the Society, and proposed to hold a dinner on Wednesday, May 31, at which the further activities can be discussed and a programme outlined.

It may be as well to state briefly the main purposes of the Society, which are, firstly, to maintain and renew the friendships of our School of Architecture days, and secondly, to maintain a connection between the older students now in practice and the

younger ones both at and recently from the School.

This kind of contact would be stimulating and helpful to both the old and the new and would help to keep alive the spirit of enthusiasm and vigour which we associate with the Liverpool School and particularly with its great teacher and leader, the late Sir Charles Reilly.

Would all present and old students who wish to attend this inaugural dinner please keep this time free and send their names to me as acting Hon. Secretary of the Society with Mr. N. J. Aslan for this occasion, and I will let them know of all further arrangements.

I am, etc.,

WILLIAM CRABTREE.

London House

To the Editor of A. & B.N.

Sir,—I have to-day sent the following letter to the Lord Mayor of London:—

"The sketches of the proposed development of Mecklenburgh Square—the material result of the great National Thanksgiving Fund you have launched—were a bitter disappointment when they were published in the Press yesterday.

"Such buildings, insincere and pompous, are unworthy of the spirit of gratitude which is promoting the fund; such nondescript monumentality is quite contrary to the vigour and spirit of collegiate life; and as a serious proposal for execution in the second half of the twentieth century they are a tragic survival of the deplorable taste that prevailed in this country between the wars.

"In the speeches from the Guildhall last evening, this realistic scheme was described as a living memorial; may not the architecture be alive too? If these buildings are erected as the sketches predict they will be still-born—My Lord, bury them now before it is too late, and charge a living architect to design this area in a manner fit for the many students of the future who will use it with gratitude."

It is hoped that many people who have reacted against such buildings will do all in their power to avert a tragedy.

I am, etc.,

C. T. STURGIS,

Secretary, Students' Club Committee.
The Architectural Association,
School of Architecture.

House Building Costs

To the Editor A. & B.N.

Sir,—I should like to make a point in connection with house building costs which may have been overlooked by appealing to architects to allow more time for the preparation of detailed drawings and specifications before quantities are undertaken. The fact that quantity surveyors have to measure from eighth scale drawings which are quite often little more than sketch

plans leads to over-measuring and consequent unnecessarily high tenders.

I think it is now generally acknowledged that Bills of Quantities based on the Revised Code of Measurement are not in themselves responsible for high prices, but quantity surveyors cannot be blamed for loading bills representing schemes which have been insufficiently thought out.

Architects should appreciate that full details and specifications together with competitive tenders for P.C. items are essential to accurate quantities, the production of which will result in lower and more realistic tenders.

I am etc.,

G. RENTON, A.R.I.C.S.

Pollarded Avenue

To the Editor of A. & B.N.

Sir,—The photographs you publish (March 24) of an avenue of limes before and after mutilation in Oxford illustrate only one example of a deplorable practice amongst local authorities.

Another example offends the senses (or should do) of those like myself who have to pass one of Liverpool's oldest and largest cemeteries twice daily. At one time the panorama of mouldering tombs was screened by trees which have recently become torn and tarred stumps.

Perhaps you would kindly publish a reason for this drastic surgery, if one exists, and recommendations for alternative and more attractive treatment. There is a chance that they will be brought to the notice of the Parks and Gardens Committees throughout the country who may issue memoranda to the effect of "Woodman—spare that tree!"

I am etc.,

CECIL F. WRIGHT.

APPOINTMENT

Messrs. Minoprio and Spenceley, F.F.R.I.B.A., have been appointed planning consultants for Cwmbran New Town in partnership with P. W. McFarlane.

PARTNERSHIP

Mr. Edward Playne, F.R.I.B.A., of Sir Aston Webb & Son, wishes to announce that the practices of Sir Aston Webb & Son and Mr. Grey Wornum, F.R.I.B.A., will be amalgamated as from March 27, 1950.

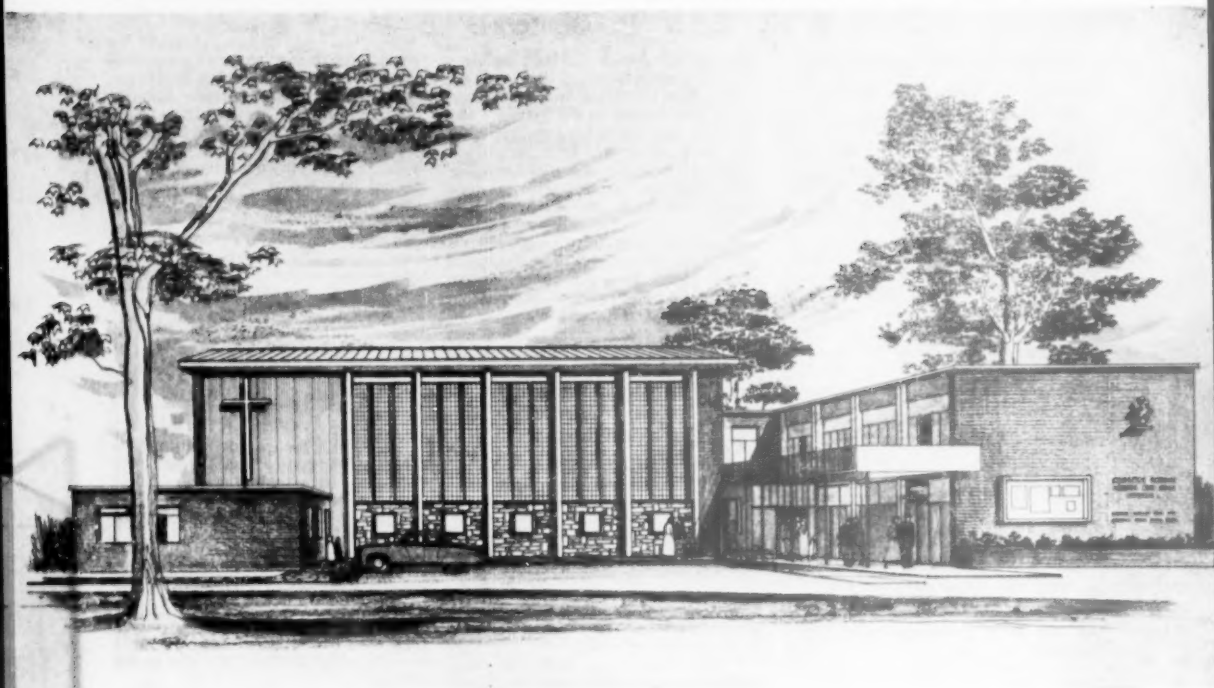
The partners will be Mr. Grey Wornum, Mr. Edward Playne.

The style of the firm will be "Wornum and Playne, incorporating Sir Aston Webb & Son."

The address will be 19 Queen Anne's Gate, Westminster, S.W.1. Telephone: WHITEhall 2552 (3 lines).

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

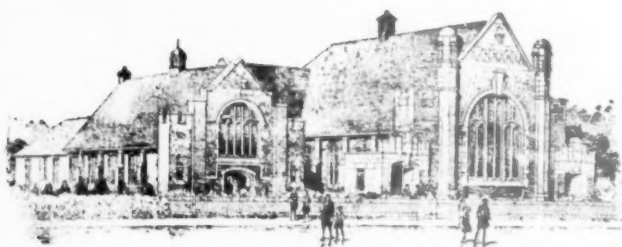
Mr. Cecil C. Handisyde, A.R.I.B.A., A.A.Dip., has moved his offices to 68 Great Russell Street, W.C.1.



Perspective by G. C. Bodgener, A.R.I.B.A.

Proposed new Methodist Church at Mitcham, Surrey

ARCHITECT: EDWARD D. MILLS, F.R.I.B.A., F.S.A.



The original Church destroyed during the War.

THE new buildings are to replace the original church destroyed in the blitz. The site is adjacent to Mitcham Fair Green,

and fronts on to a wide grass verge with a row of elms.

The proposed new church has not been sited on the old founda-

tions, but is placed at the back of the site, forming part of a group of which each block is planned for use, if necessary, as an inde-

pendent unit, but linked to the others and thus forming a composition dominated by the church.

Approach is from the north corner of the site from a right of way. The open space enclosed on three sides by buildings is to be used as a car park and cycle store.

The right-hand block contains two large halls, capable of subdivision, one above the other, each to seat 200 people. The hall on the ground floor includes an ample stage, which has an alternative use as a meeting room for 50 or 60.

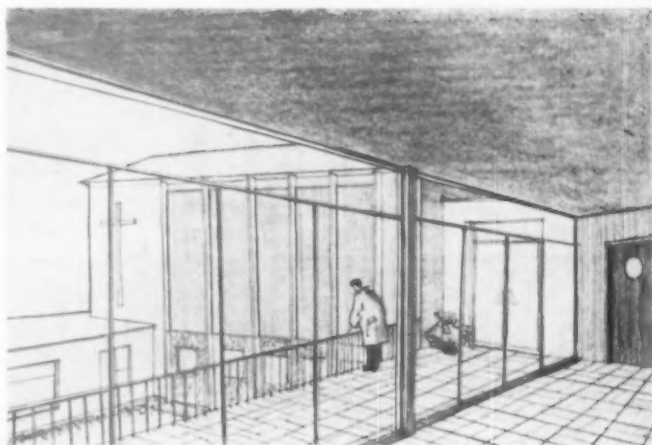
On the first floor there are, in addition, two smaller meeting rooms, a kitchen, and a caretaker's flat.

The covered way alongside the hall leads to a large foyer with cloakroom accommodation—rare in church planning—and from this foyer the church itself is entered.

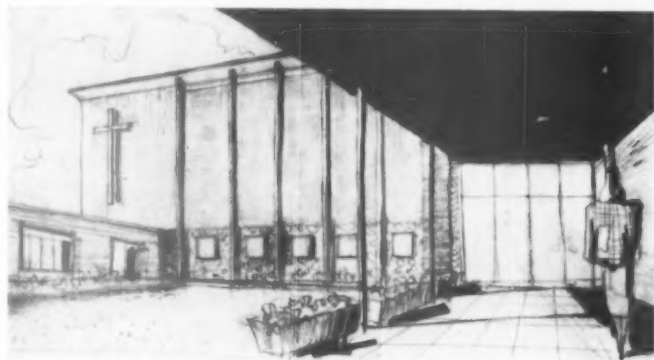
The construction of the church, which is designed to seat 420-450, is reinforced concrete frame, with panel walls of squared rubble up to about one-third of the wall height, pierced with small square windows intended for stained glass of contemporary design. Above this level the walls are continued as glass-bricks with concrete mullions between the portal frames.

The design gives a strong feeling of verticality. The low-pitch roof is covered with copper. Heating is by means of coils embedded in the concrete floor of the church; high-level lighting is to be from fluorescent tubes concealed behind louvres to give diffusion. An unusual feature is the provision for film projection.

In his report to his clients, the



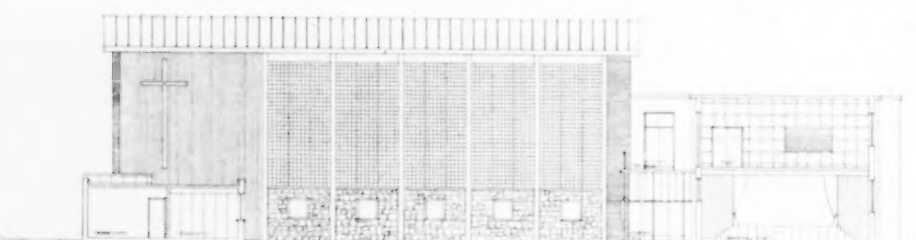
Above : Sketch of the Church seen from the first floor hall through the balcony. Below : View from under the same balcony, which forms the covered way leading to the lobby into the Church. Across the open space for cars and cycles, is the low block containing the vestries, classrooms and lavatories for clergy and choir.



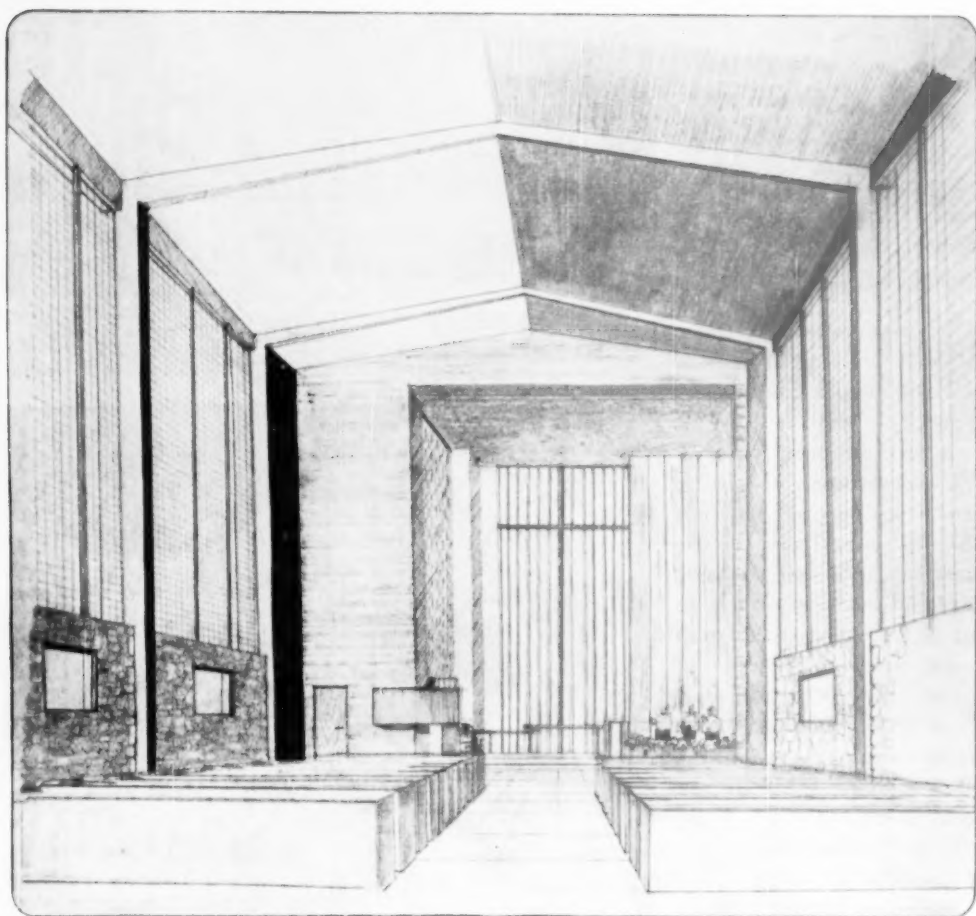
architect argued the case for contemporary design at some length. Briefly, he maintained that there were three possible alternatives. The first that the new building could be a meaningless copy of a past style in the form of a frankly imitation parish church. The second was a building in modern materials with a suggestion of Gothic, or other assumed ecclesias-

tical features. "A mongrel building neither genuinely traditional nor genuinely modern."

The third alternative was "A frankly contemporary design, using present-day materials and methods of construction, and endeavouring to present through this means an honest expression of the purpose of the building so designed."



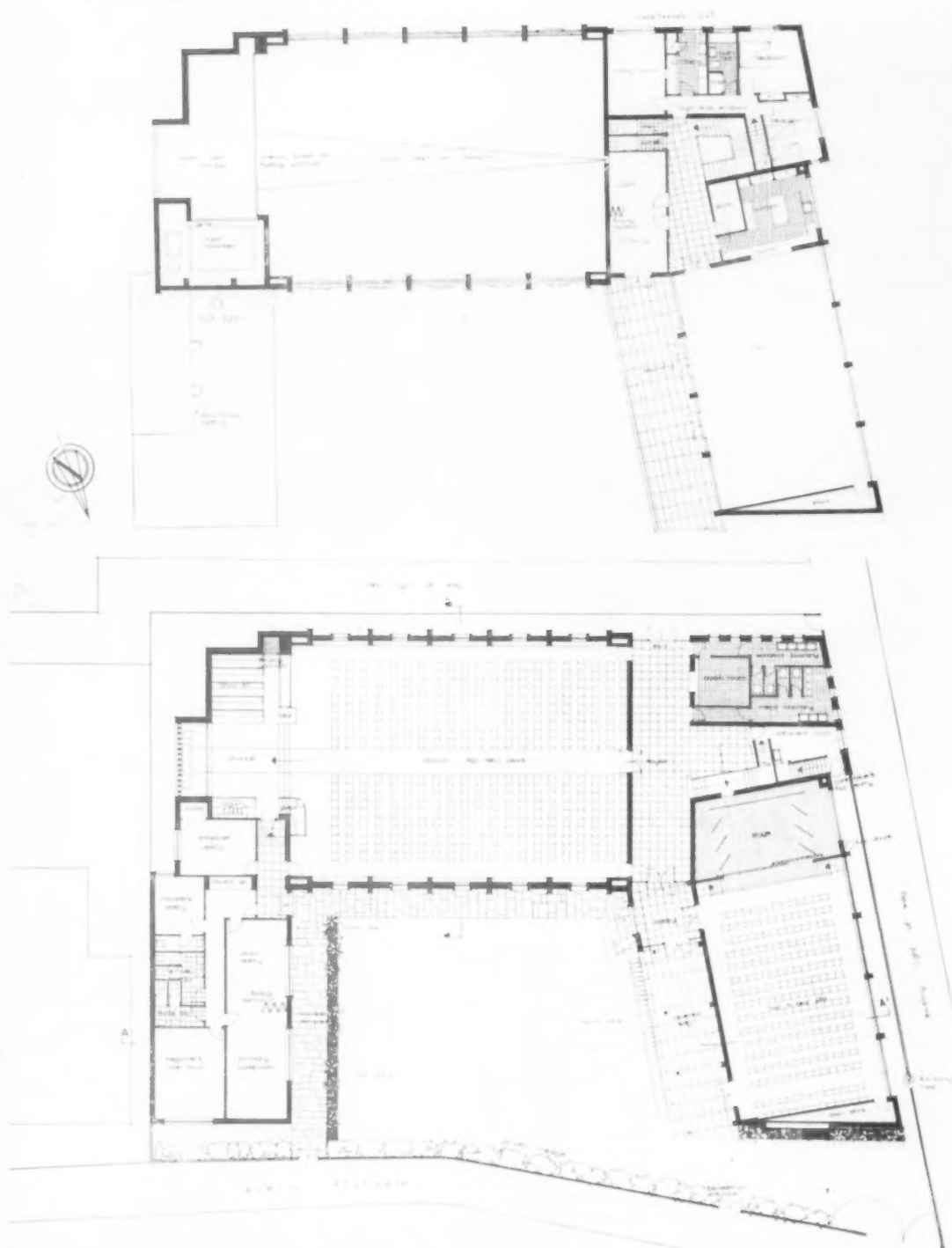
SECTION AA



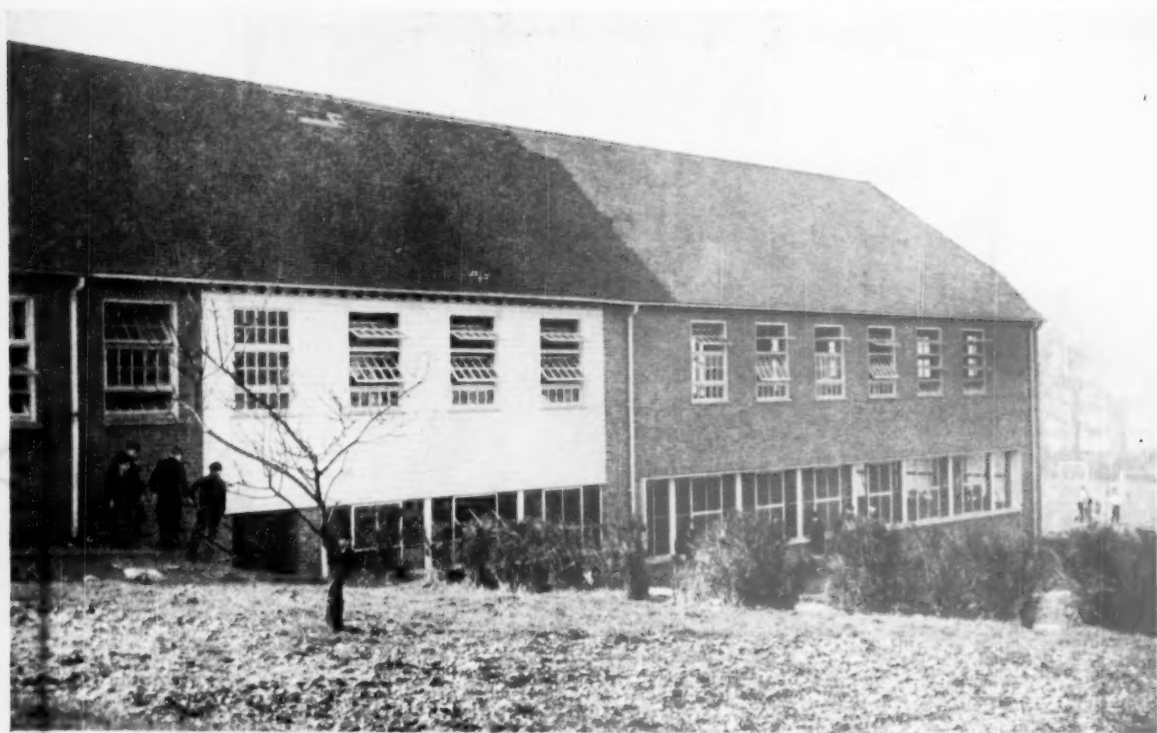
An impression of the church, looking towards the chancel. The large windows are of glass bricks, which act also as a sound insulator, and the low-level windows in the rubble wall are envisaged as glazed with stained glass of modern design. The large window behind the communion table would be reconstructed stone mullions, glazed with glass lenses with a patterned surface. The walls of the chancel are flush panelled in birch or sycamore.



SECTION BB



GROUND & FIRST FLOOR PLANS CHURCH AT MITCHAM



The new part of the school begins where the weather boarding ends

EXTENSION TO THE TOWNSEND SCHOOL, ST. ALBANS

For the Hertfordshire County Council

ARCHITECTS: MAUGER AND MAY, F.R.I.B.A., M.T.P.I.

THE building illustrated is an extension to an aided Secondary Boys' and Girls' Church of England School. The purpose of the building was to provide a canteen and kitchen and Craft Rooms.

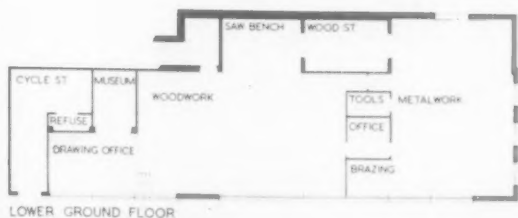
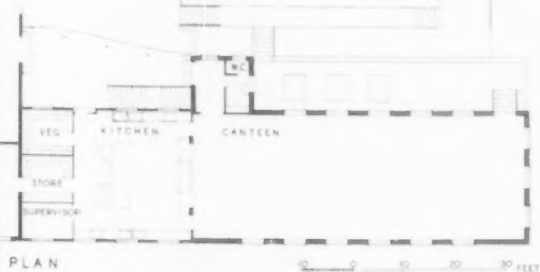
The site falls rapidly to the north, the canteen being planned at the same level as the general school with the Craft Block below, taking advantage of the slope.

A report provided by the County Council Crafts Organiser, has this to say about the extensions: The Craft Rooms are on the lower floor, and have been designed to meet the requirements of the Education Act. The idea that craft abilities of boys

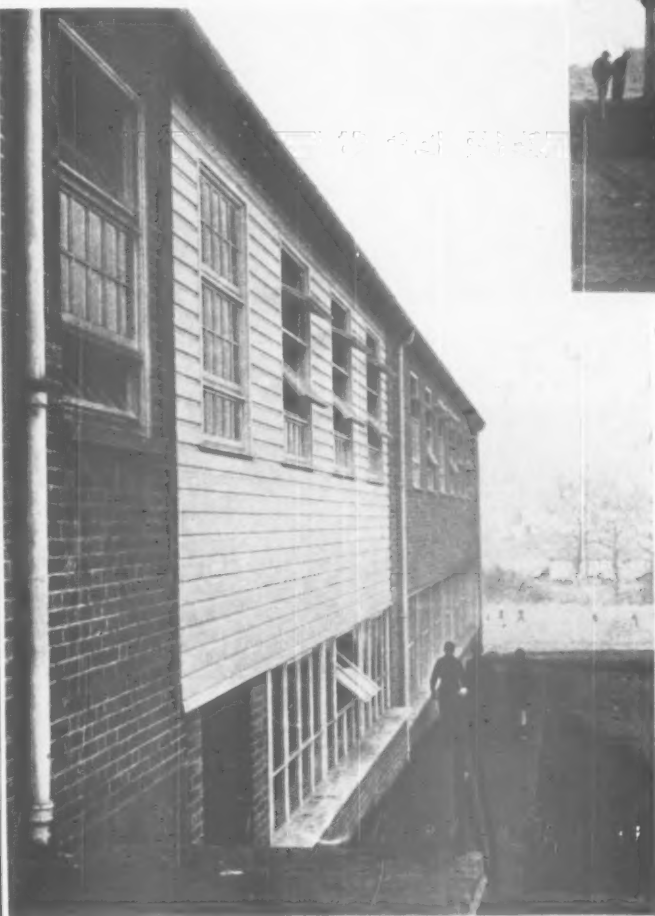
can be met by giving facilities for woodwork is now obsolete, and the Authorities realise that the practical interests of boys from 11 to 15 years of age go far beyond this. The problem was, therefore, to provide on an economical basis, facilities for a variety of work which would satisfy this wider range. The Craft Room is therefore arranged in two sections which will not be used for separate classes but as a unit where the particular facilities of the students can be developed. Little difficulty therefore arises when a pupil requires to use both rooms in connection with his work. The Instructors' room is placed centrally and is glazed on either side for supervision. Apart from the usual

hand tools and benches, motorised tools such as lathes, circular saw, fret saw, etc., have been installed in the woodwork shop, and power drills, grinders, hack machine, brazing hearth and forge in the metalwork shop. Double doors from the approach way have been provided to admit a car chassis or tractor in connection with the engineering or rural metalwork. A raised bay has also been set aside for technical drawing.

With regard to the canteen, cooking is done by a permanent staff of seven who provide a mid-day meal for about 220 girls and 160 boys in separate sittings. Service is from an open servery. The girls sit in small groups to which the



Above: Lower windows are to woodwork and metalwork craft rooms.



staff are invited as guests. There is no attempt at formality and children of all ages sit together.

The construction, which had to be mated up with the existing building, is steel framed with 11 in. cavity walls, the outer skin being Chesham multi sandfaced bricks and the inner skin Uxbridge flint bricks of a pale cream colour. The stanchions are exposed and painted, the roof is built up from steel trusses and is covered with machine made sandfaced tiles. The floors of the canteen and wood workshop are of 1 in. beech blocks, and of the kitchen, buff quarry tiles. The ceiling to the canteen is "Celotex" insulation board in aluminium tees hung from the ties.

The General Contractor for the scheme was Messrs. J. T. Bushell Ltd.



The main entrance to the Canteen is up the steps in the background and under the curved canopy



The Canteen Servery

Architects
Mauger & May
F.R.I.B.A., M.T.P.I.

TOWNSEND CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL, ST. ALBANS



NEW SHOP in Leicester Square

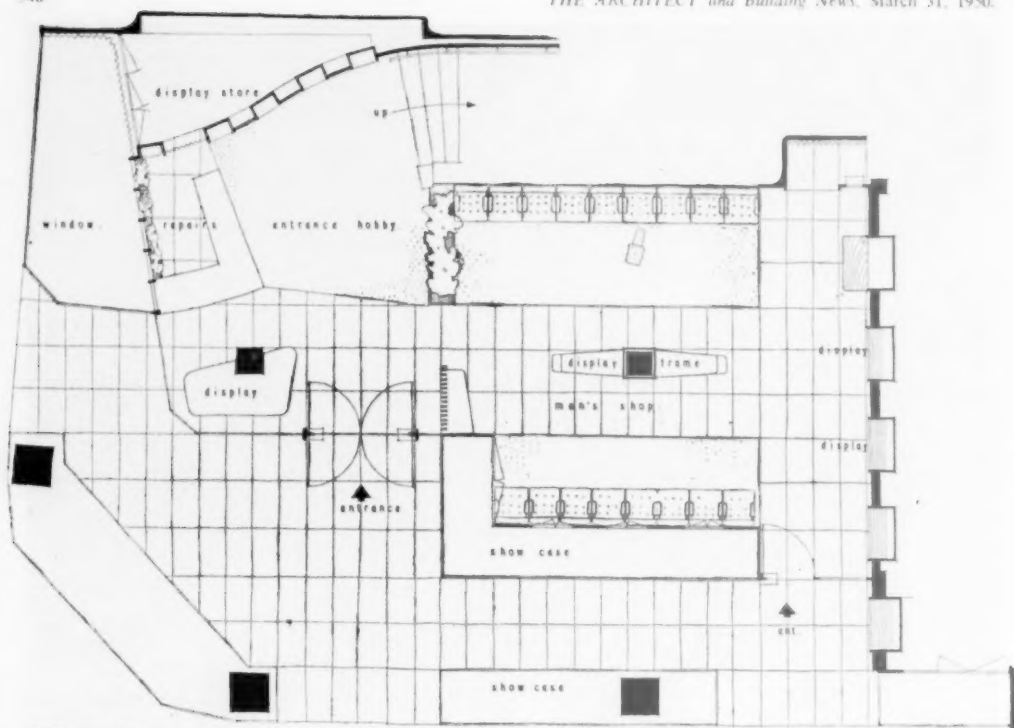
designed by
ELLIS E. SOMAKE,
F.R.I.B.A.

Staff Architect, Dolcis Shoe Co.

THIS shop is a reconstruction of the Company's existing premises which began with the need to replan the first floor to include a ladies' underwear section. It was decided to make the ground floor a Man's Shop and to form an entrance display hall, as a prelude and link to the upper floor sales area.

Planning

Most of the existing window display lobby was dismantled to make way for the Man's Shop which has its own entrance from Leicester Square linked by circulation to a new entrance display lobby.



GROUND FLOOR PLAN

In the latter a completely visual front of plate glass with inset armoured glass doors makes visible the display and activity of the interior and invites the customer to enter.

In the Man's Shop screens and slatted backgrounds for display give a measure of privacy without breaking up the feeling of spaciousness. It was considered most important to create an atmosphere self-contained and masculine in character.

On the first floor an exhibition technique has been used to surround the sales space and the existing stock shelving where convenient has been retained.

By careful planning, the number of chairs for shoe fitting has been increased in spite of the loss of area taken up by the new ladies' underwear section.

Individual Features

A false ceiling was installed on the ground floor for the following reasons: 1. To mask the existing beams which were heavily decorated and did not conform to the new plan pattern. 2. To facilitate the use of recessed lighting fittings and to provide a duct for electrical and other services. 3. To increase apparent widths of enclosed space.

The false ceiling has been continued throughout the whole of the ground floor into the outer display lobby. This preserves the link between the outside and inside of the store and makes the visual front even more incidental. This theme is echoed again in the Man's Shop where a brick wall with showcases commences in the outer lobby and continues past the side of a plate glass front into the interior of the department. The terrazzo square floor also runs from the outer lobby in to the interior and forms the major floor covering in the Man's Shop.

In the Entrance Display Hall a display feature supported on spurs serves as a screen to the Man's Shop and follows up the staircase to form an interesting

introduction to the first floor. This motif is echoed by a recessed trough in the false ceiling lighted by cold cathode fittings. A "hit and miss" display feature terminates the vista from the entrance doors and is shaped to lead the customer to the stairs.

Materials

Sapeli Mahogany is contrasted with beech; both woods are finished in dull wax polish. The vertical Shiplap boarding in the Man's Shop is beech. False Ceilings—Fibrous Plaster. Brickwork—2 in. hand-made sandfaced Dorking bricks bedded in coloured lime mortar with raked out joint. Sashes and glazing frames—Bronze metal. Flower Boxes—Natural aluminium. Man's Shop window enclosure—Squares of polished cork with beech veneered background. Paintwork—Eggshell Enamel, especially mixed to the architect's own tints.

Lighting

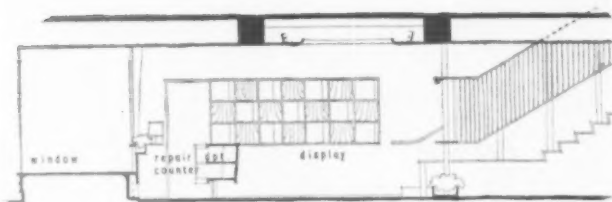
It was desired to accentuate spaciousness without using a type of lighting which would distort the colours of displayed goods. This has been achieved by using a type of recessed tungsten fittings set against a dark wedgwood blue ceiling. The tungsten gives good colour reproduction and is boosted by the dramatic effect of the cold cathode trough and display lighting.

To give display lighting an extra kick—a limited number of internally silvered fittings have been used. It has been found that the heat from these fittings prohibits their use in a great number. The showcases in the Man's Shop have two "Hyliters" on swivel fixings installed in a secret trough—thus any position within the interior of the showcase can be spotlighted.

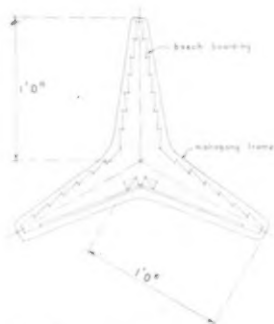
Shop window lighting has its front line boosted with recessed fluorescent fittings behind flashed opal glass. A dramatic pattern of lighting in each window is achieved by the use of recessed gimble rings with adjustable louvres.



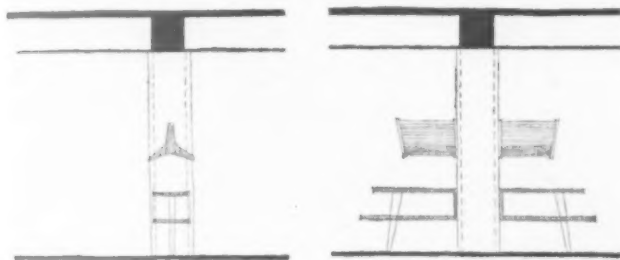
In the Man's Shop screens and slatted backgrounds for display give a measure of privacy without breaking up the feeling of spaciousness.



Section through entrance display hall



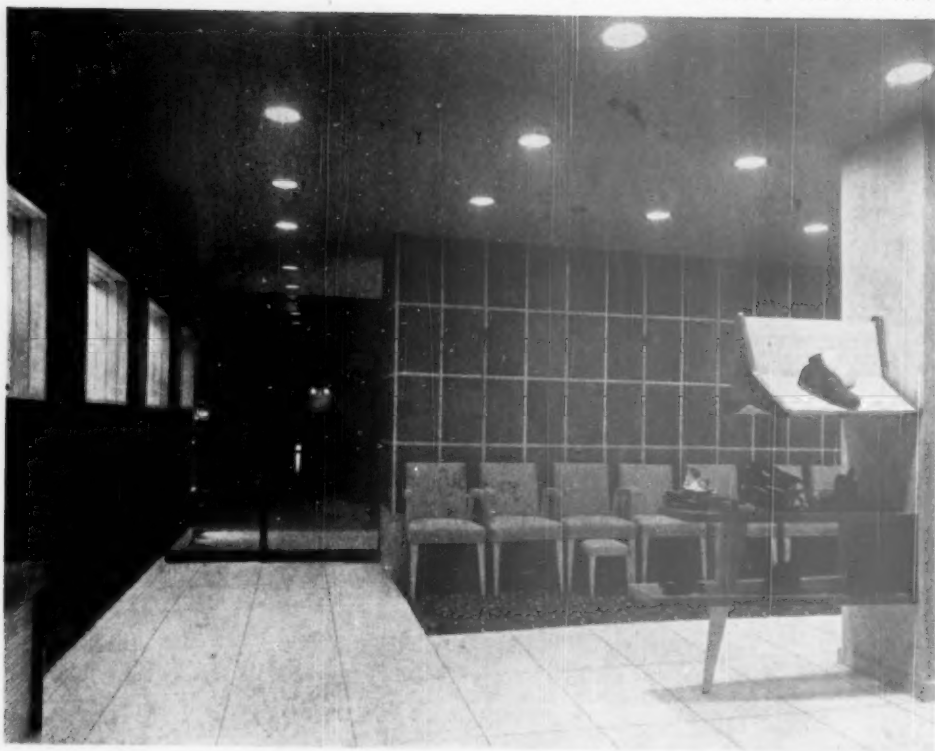
display frame detail



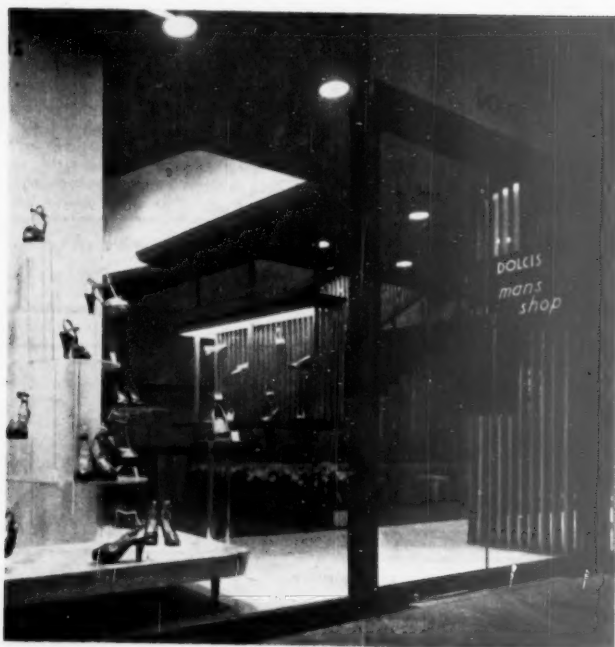
display frame end

display frame side

NEW SHOE SHOP BY ELLIS E. SOMAKE, F.R.I.B.A.



Entrance to Man's Shop from Leicester Square



Main entrance and display hall

DOLCIS SHOE SHOP

CONTRACTORS AND SUPPLIERS

CARPETS & CURTAINS—F. G. Minter (Decorations) Ltd.

CASH TUBES—Lamson Engineering Co. Ltd.

CHAIRS & FITTING STOOLS—Ernest Race Limited; G. A. Sawyer Ltd.

ELECTRICS—Courtney, Pope (Electrical) Ltd.

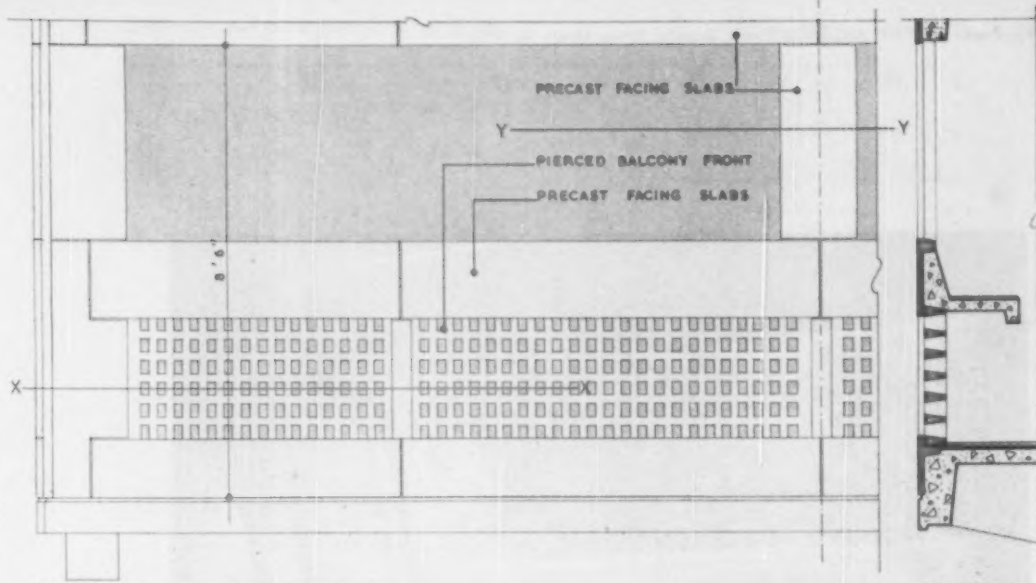
HEATING—Rosser & Russell Ltd.

PAINT—Thomas Parsons & Sons Ltd.

SHOPFITTING—A. Davies & Co. Ltd.

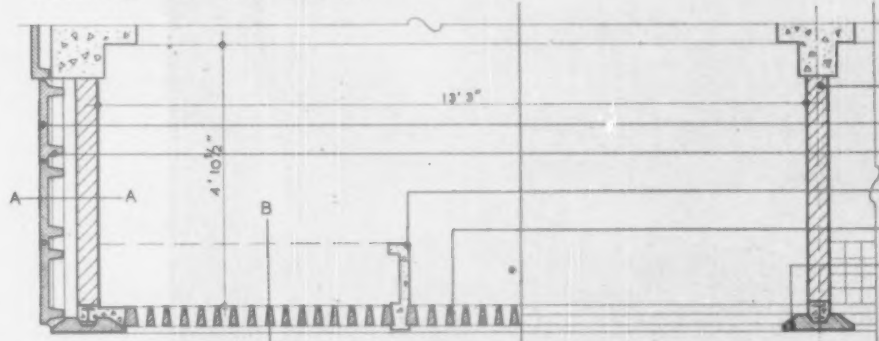
SPRINKLERS—Atlas Sprinkler Co. Ltd.

SOUND PRODUCTION—The Decca Record Co. Ltd.



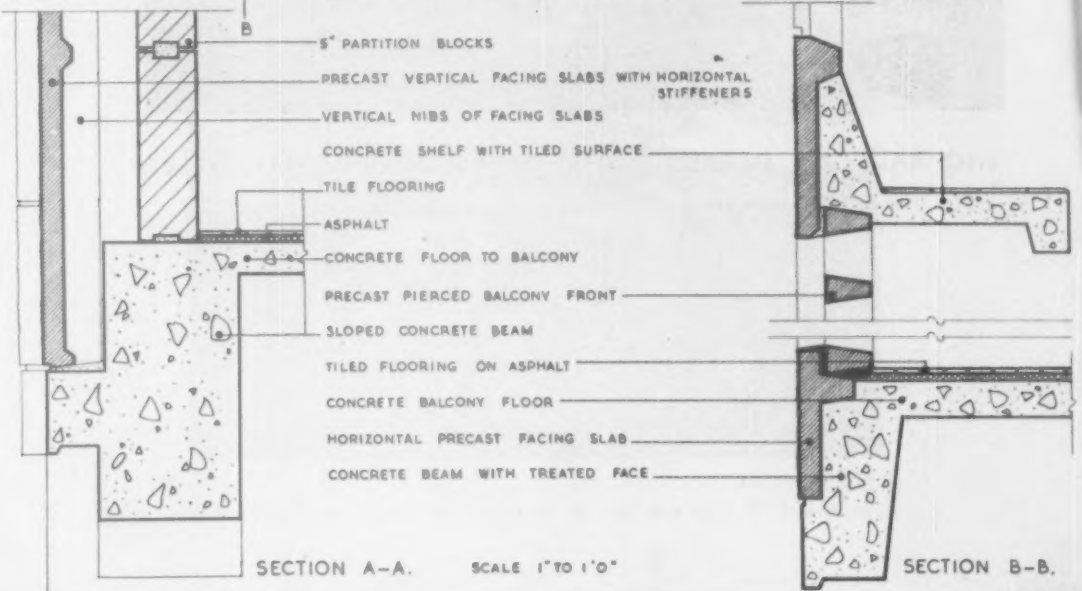
ELEVATION OF END BALCONY

SECTION



PART PLAN X-X • SCALE 3/8" TO 1'0" • PART PLAN Y-Y

- BLOCK PARTITION
- PRECAST FACING SLABS
- VERTICAL NIBS
- SUPPORT FOR CONCRETE SHELF
- PIERCED BALCONY FRONT
- PRECAST FACING SLABS



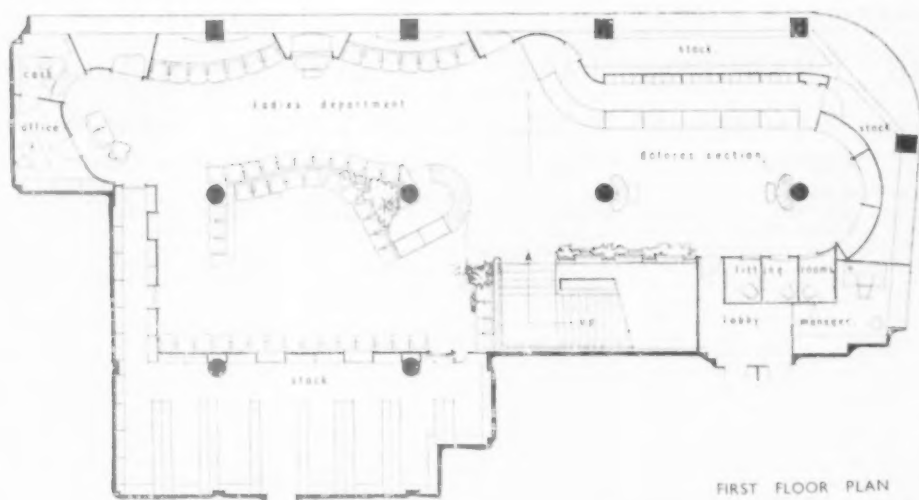
SECTION A-A. SCALE 1" TO 1'0"

SECTION B-B.

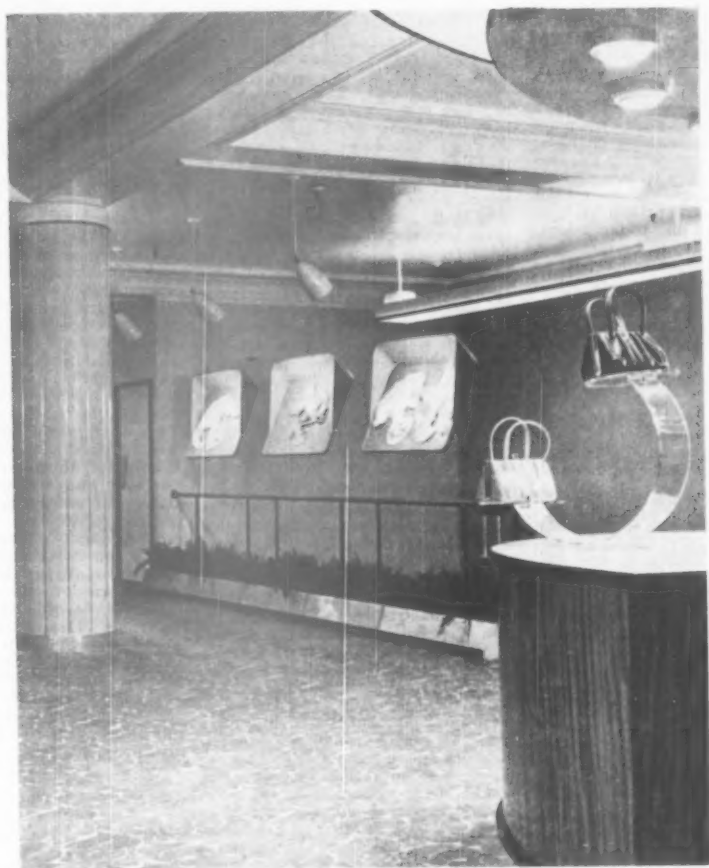


END BALCONY DETAIL, UNITE D'HABITATION, MARSEILLES

ARCHITECT : LE CORBUSIER



FIRST FLOOR PLAN



First floor display

NEW SHOE SHOP BY ELLIS E. SOMAKE, F.R.I.B.A.

POINTS FROM PAPERS

THE CHANGING FACE OF MODERN BUILDINGS

A paper read by EDWARD D. MILLS, F.R.I.B.A., F.S.A., to Sheffield University Architectural Society on March 9. The paper was illustrated by slides.

I HOPE you will examine, with a critical eye the contemporary buildings you admire most, not only when you see them reproduced in the glossy pages of the *Architectural Review* with their wonderful shadows, and their carefully balanced compositions against a filtered sky, with just the right amount of white cotton wool cloud, but also in real life 5 or 10 years after they are completed when the wind and weather have done their worst and when they have been at the mercy of their owners or users for a while. Last year I decided to see for myself the present condition of some of the well-known contemporary buildings in and around Paris, and I hope to describe some of the things I saw, later in this talk. Some of the buildings I saw were an acute disappointment, others were a pleasant surprise. It is this question of appearance of modern buildings under conditions of daily use that is so important. We all tend at some time to design buildings which are more satisfactory on paper than in real life, and perhaps this tendency is greater when we are students knowing that the designs we present in two dimensions are seldom likely to be translated into three dimensional buildings which have to be seen on a wet and foggy November morning as well as in the bright sunshine of a summer's day.

The deterioration of buildings is a vital matter for two reasons, the first is an economic one, the second an aesthetic one. To deal with the economic factor briefly, a building which requires constant and expensive maintenance for the whole of its life is not likely to be popular with a building owner, who cannot under present economic conditions afford the labour, materials, or money that continual renewal and repair requires, consequently a building that requires constant attention will fail to receive it, and will rapidly deteriorate, assuming a more dejected appearance as it gets older. If the building in question is one of contemporary design, this rapid failure will do more harm to the cause of modern architecture than all its traditionalist critics, for even an enthusiastic client-supporter of contemporary architecture is liable to find his enthusiasm waning if the building which was once his pride and joy becomes a serious drain on his bank balance, by reason of heavy maintenance costs. The aesthetic aspect is one which will be dealt with as we proceed, but it should be remembered that a contemporary building is designed with a clear picture in the designer's mind of its shape, form, colour and texture. It is, visually, a carefully designed com-

position of these elements, and uncontrolled or unexpected weathering can upset the balance of colours and texture, can alter shapes and even affect structural stability, changing the whole appearance of a building usually to the detriment of the original design.

Before dealing with particular features in greater detail, it is worthwhile considering whether or not this problem is a new one which has arisen with the development of modern architecture, or whether it has always been a source of difficulty to the designers of buildings. It is fairly obvious that the problem of deterioration, weathering and decay are not new to building. They are in fact as old as the art of building itself for a continuous battle has always raged between the man-made structure and the natural elements of wind, rain and sun. Why then should it be given special prominence now? The answer lies in the fact that contemporary architecture uses many new materials, new structural techniques, and often uses traditional materials in a non-traditional manner. The traditional builder solved many of his weathering problems by the use of cornices, mouldings, eaves overhangs, and a number of other features which we are beginning to realize had a value not only as a visual embellishment to the structure but also served such strictly functional purposes as protecting the walls of the building, allowing thermal movement without showing cracks, and protecting door and window openings. The success of these devices can be judged by the appearance of many of our finest traditional buildings which still present an attractive appearance to-day after centuries of use, often with the minimum of maintenance.

With the development of contemporary architecture and new building materials and techniques, we have abandoned these traditional methods of protection, and often failed to replace them with an adequate contemporary counterpart. Our buildings have therefore, in many cases failed where the traditional building succeeded. I am not however, advocating a return to traditional building methods nor to the design of present day buildings as imitations of past architectural styles, my concern is with the development of a contemporary technique which will solve these problems of weathering and deterioration as satisfactorily as the builders of the past. It is an unfortunate fact, that the designers of some of the early contemporary buildings paid far too little attention to careful detailing, with the distressing results that we can often see in some of the buildings that have

now been erected for up to 20 years. It is absolutely essential that as much care should be devoted to the design of eaves details, window openings, copings, etc.; as to the overall planning and design of the building itself. My work as Editor of the *A. & B.N. Detail Sheets*, as well as my normal architectural practice, and the examination of recently completed buildings has shown that there is the beginning of a widespread appreciation of the importance of detail in modern buildings, and I hope that this development will grow, for its value to the cause of contemporary architecture cannot be overestimated.

What are the problems which have to be solved, and what are the factors that cause deterioration in buildings? In the time at my disposal, and with my limited knowledge and experience, I can only hope to deal with some of the more important problems, some of these may be obvious to you, but if this is the case perhaps repetition will help to keep them to the forefront of your minds. Let us first consider the enemy, his habits and the forces at his disposal. The enemy of all structures is the combination of the natural elements which are constantly attacking the materials which make up the structure. If buildings could be erected in a vacuum they would remain eternally as fresh and new as the day on which they were completed. This condition is unfortunately for the present at any rate, unattainable, and so we have to face a number of elements, all of which have an effect on building materials and building structures. Water in the form of rain can penetrate structural materials and joints causing damp conditions and discoloration. Driving rain can wear away exposed surfaces, wash away surface colour and wear away surface texture. Rain can also carry harmful chemical substances which can start deterioration in structural materials, initiate chemical action, cause corrosion of metals and release chemical substances in building materials. Damp conditions will further the growth of fungus, etc., cause movement in the form of swelling and warping in timber, and in cold weather ice and frost can cause structural failure in building materials such as stonework, concrete and tiling, and can damage joints and jointing materials.

Heat and cold can cause expansion and contraction in both structures and in the component materials, with resultant structural failure, fractures, cracking and crazing. Heat can cause blistering of paintwork and other forms of surface treatment, and strong light will cause fading of both natural and artificial colouring

materials. Wind, apart from creating stresses in a structure, will carry smoke and other impurities, which can be deposited on the face of a building, discolouring surface materials, and providing the basis for chemical action in combination with water.

This short list alone reveals the nature and extent to which the appearance of a building may be changed as a result of uncontrolled weathering. An analysis gives the following classifications:

- (i). Change of colour and texture—fading, discolouration, erosion, staining.
- (ii). Physical breakdown of materials—corrosion, decay, lamination, disintegration.
- (iii). Structural failure—cracking, crazing, distortion, fracture.

All these failures can be seen in a building, and sometimes they can all be seen in a single building, but with adequate care in detailing, good workmanship and appropriate materials properly assembled these distressing failures can be avoided. As we have already seen many traditional buildings avoided these undesirable structural and visual changes by the adoption of certain applied devices developed over long periods, and by the use of materials, the behaviour of which was fairly well understood as a result of long experience. To-day we must combat the forces which cause deterioration in buildings in a manner comparable with our technical development, and if the cornices and mouldings, etc., of the past do not fit in with our contemporary conception of architectural form, then we must replace them with contemporary equivalents or design our buildings so that the problems they solve do not arise.

Let us now look at this problem of the deterioration of modern buildings in greater detail and examine a few of the factors of importance in relation to contemporary materials and structural methods. Time will not allow a detailed examination of all these factors, but we can look at the four main points in varying detail.

- (a). Surfacing materials.
- (b). The use of metalwork.
- (c). The weathering of critical points of a building.
- (d). The problem of thermal movement.

(a) Surfacing Materials

Perhaps the most obvious failures in the appearance of a contemporary building is in the main surfacing material. This may remain structurally sound to the extent that it continues to keep out wind and weather, but its original appearance may be rapidly changed by reason of staining colour fading, the collection of dirt, surface erosion, surface cracking or crazing or other physical changes. Alternatively the material itself may develop faults which not only affect its appearance but also affect its efficiency as a protection against the penetration of damp, heat or cold. We have only

time to consider one or two materials, and it is therefore, desirable that they should be ones which are in common use for contemporary buildings.

1. Brickwork and Stonework. These are not in themselves new materials and if they are used in the traditional manner present few problems providing the materials and workmanship are both high standard. There are of course surfacing problems to be dealt with but the experience of centuries is at our disposal where these materials have been used in modern buildings any failures that have arisen have seldom been due to the materials themselves but rather to bad detailing at initial points, and can therefore be considered under that heading.

2. Surface Renderings. The practice of covering the surface of a building with a plastic material which subsequently sets to form a hard face has been in vogue from the earliest times, and there are examples of Roman rendering in good condition to-day. In spite of this one of the most constant failures in contemporary buildings is to be found in rendered surfaces, these failures which have changed the face of many a modern building, develop often first in the form of hair cracks or crazing shortly after the rendering is completed, which later develop into larger cracks and in extreme cases the rendering breaks down and becomes detached from the wall. Most rendered surfaces look clean immediately after completion but many rapidly discolour in an uneven manner producing a patchy and shabby appearance. No amount of surface treatment can be guaranteed to provide a permanent cure for these disfigurements. Fortunately the B.R.S. and other bodies have given this matter consideration over a long period, and investigation into Continental methods, where considerable success in surface renderings has been achieved, has made available a considerable amount of valuable information. It is a fact that the failures we find in rendering in this country are not experienced abroad and I can recall discussing this matter with Prof. Gropius who maintained that the rendered surfaces on his many buildings erected in Germany were free from failure many years after their completion, such buildings as the Bauhaus and the huge Seimenstadt flat developments around Berlin were all finished with rendered surfaces.

The view that any brickwork is good enough for a rendered wall is entirely wrong, in fact the requirements are very exacting. The brick used must be well fired and hard, to resist the shrinkage stresses in the rendering. Adhesion is all important and a London Stock, or sand-lime brick, with a medium to rather high suction has suitable characteristics. Grooved or keyed bricks are also useful. To prevent crazing or shrinkage cracks the use of plain cement and sand mixes should be avoided, as they are too strong for the job. Cement-lime mixes generally produce satisfactory results and most Continental renderings are of

this composition, and where exposure is not severe there is much to be said for a cement-lime mix for both undercoat and finishing coat.

The Continental method of application of renderings is of interest, wetter mixes are used and these are thrown on, floated smooth and ruled off, it is claimed that this technique gives better adhesion. The surface treatment of a rendering can contribute much to its success. It is essential that a rich skin should not be worked to the surface, and therefore, the wood float finish, scraped with a steel rule has much to commend it. If a colour aggregate is used a considerable variety of colour and texture can be obtained in this manner. Scraped finishes are largely free from cracking, and any cracks that do occur are very fine in nature and are hardly apparent as they tend to form around individual pieces of aggregate.

The question of appearance of rendered surfaces after exposure is one that needs still considerable research. Many surfaces soon lose their original colour. There are two reasons for this, one the accumulation of grime and dirt on the exposed surface and the other the fading of the colouring agent in the rendering. Unfortunately the open textured rendering which is satisfactory from the cracking control aspect being rough in finish tends to hold the dirt. The answer therefore, appears to be in the use of either periodic colour washes, which is only practicable in clean districts where they may last as long as 5 years, or more usefully on town buildings, a rendering using a natural hard aggregate of strong colour which will be washed relatively clean by rain. Recent experiments with crushed brick, crushed stone and similar materials will be worth careful examination after a period of exposure.

The final, and in some ways the most important factor affecting the success or failure of surface renderings is the provision of weatherings at critical points of the elevation.

This will be discussed later.

3. Impervious Surfacings. Of recent years a variety of impervious surfacings have been used on modern buildings with varying success. Of these the most satisfying have been glazed tiles, faience, coloured glass, sheet metal (primarily aluminium) and pre-cast concrete slabs. These materials are all applied, either to a backing of brick or concrete or suspended from a framework. In each case their success has been partly due to the fact that their highly impervious surface, often glazed or polished, does not hold an accumulation of dirt, and that they can be easily washed or cleaned down when they lose their initial cleanliness. Two factors are important, firstly the method of jointing and the protection of the edges of the members from moisture and frost and secondly the precautions taken against thermal movement. The second factor will be dealt with later. With regard to jointing, the mortar used for

faience or tiles should be of lime-cement mix to allow greater freedom of moisture in the joints, and because they introduce less soluble alkali sulphates. With glazed surfaces the quality of the glaze is vital as poor glazes will develop a network of fine cracks, tiles and faience should therefore be selected with care, and should also have the makers' guarantee of its frost-proof nature. Good adhesion between the facing units and the backing material is essential, and the rules concerning adhesion in relation to renderings apply in this case also. Where the adhesion has failed whole areas of surfacing have broken away from the building face. Glass facing has been used with considerable success and can either be stuck to the backing material with a special resilient mastic, to allow for a certain amount of movement, and the edges of the sheets kept slightly apart and masked by a cover strip or supported by an entirely independent surface structure. Failure to do this will probably result in cracked sheets.

Precast concrete slabs can now be obtained in a wide variety of surface colours and textures, they can be used as permanent shuttering to concrete walls, suspended from a concrete or steel frame, or held to a backing by means of special fixing devices. The use of unsuitable aggregates and colours in the early days led to considerable disappointment where precast slabs were used. The colours often faded irregularly and in some cases the slabs developed surface crazing. The natural coloured aggregates are best for the reasons referred to when discussing renderings, and precast slabs should always be made by a reputable manufacturer, lightly reinforced and vibrated during the course of manufacture.

Many other sheet materials have possibilities for the surface treatment of modern buildings, but if failure is to be avoided the following characteristics are necessary in the material, impervious surface for cleanliness, if glazed a high quality even glaze resistant to frost and free from surface crazing, unfading colour, properly designed jointing system, allowance for expansion and structural movement of the building, freedom from attack from impurities in the air, and resistance to corrosion in the case of metal. This list in fact outlines the perfect surfacing material, and whether or not such a material exists only time will tell.

4. Reinforced Concrete. The last surfacing material I want to refer to in this section of my talk is not in fact a surfacing material at all but a structural material, namely reinforced concrete. Some of the most spectacular changes in the appearance of contemporary buildings can be seen in those constructed of monolithic reinforced concrete. In the early days of contemporary architecture in this country monolithic reinforced concrete was widely used because of its tremendous structural possibilities, in spite of the fact that Continental architects used it primarily as a framing material. The least satisfactory aspect of these early

buildings is the almost universal failure of their external appearance, particularly in town areas where smoke pollution is common. As far as structural durability is concerned modern reinforced concrete, properly constructed should be more than satisfactory, but certain aspects of modern concrete technique leave much to be desired and result in a product of inferior durability.

Many modern buildings have been erected as monolithic reinforced concrete structures using the natural concrete face, uncovered by any very durable facing, as the external surfacing of the building. These buildings have often been unsatisfactory where appearance is an important factor, the principal failures have been (a) Rapid discolouration of external decoration or the clean concrete face; (b) the development of cracks; (c) the corrosion of the reinforcement causing staining fracture and spalling. The measures for the protection of reinforcement and the elimination of cracking, can be outlined briefly.

Firstly the concrete cover over the steel must be maintained by strict site control at the dimension determined according to the diameter of rods. Insufficient cover is the cause of most failures and on some buildings the spalling of the concrete after the corrosion of the steel has resulted in the rods being actually visible on the surface of the building. Good supervision is the answer in this case.

Secondly the concrete mix must be equally dense throughout and care taken to avoid local weak spots especially at construction joints. Again rigid supervision and regular tests are the only solution.

Thirdly. The shrinkage of the concrete must be controlled and distributed by suitably designed reinforcement. This is the engineer's responsibility. On the question of surface treatment the most frequent deterioration of appearance is seen, particularly in smoke laden atmospheres, where the concrete has been left untreated or after rubbing down treated with some form of cement paint. Where the atmosphere is relatively clean a good quality paint may last as long as five years, but there is a tendency to patchy fading even with the best materials especially if strong colours are used. The question of board marks is an important one and these can either be eliminated by using lined shuttering, removed by rubbing down while the surface is still green, or emphasised to form a surface pattern, this has some value as it helps to mask day-to-day construction joints and if a strong vertical groove is made at regular intervals down the face of the building it can help to keep the face of the building clean, as it tends to canalize the water running down the wall. Any slight surface crazing also tends to run down the purpose-made indent and therefore appear less obvious.

A popular Continental treatment to concrete surfaces is the application of

surface texture by mechanical means, after the concrete has set; for example bush-hammering can produce an attractive surface texture especially if an aggregate of an interesting colour has been used in the concrete mix. Mechanical surfacing in this manner eliminates the problem of disfiguring shutter marks, presents an interesting face and one which keeps relatively clean, if a hard, bright aggregate is used. Such a surface weathers in much the same way as a good rendered surface.

Other finishes to concrete walls such as tiles, glass, precast slabs, renderings, faience have all been mentioned earlier, and such materials are undoubtedly the most satisfactory form of facing for a concrete wall, if good appearance is to be maintained. Unfortunately they are expensive and so cannot always be used for economic reasons.

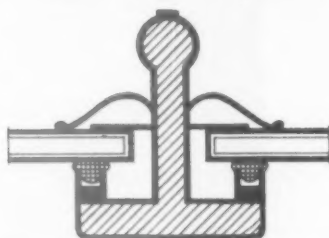
(b) The Use of Metal Work

The second factor of importance in relation to the changing appearance of modern buildings was the use of metal-work. This can be dealt with very briefly as time is passing rapidly. The most frequent failure to be observed in this connection is the rusting of ferrous railings, balustrades, window frames, and other similar features, and the consequent staining of walls when the rust is washed down the wall face by rain. The obvious answer to this problem is the use of non-ferrous metals—aluminium, copper, bronze, etc.—this may not always be possible, therefore, all exposed steel or iron surfaces should be properly rust-proofed by galvanizing or other recognized process, and then given adequate paint protection, in addition to careful detailing so that water running down a metal face is discharged before reaching a wall surface will save much discolouration.

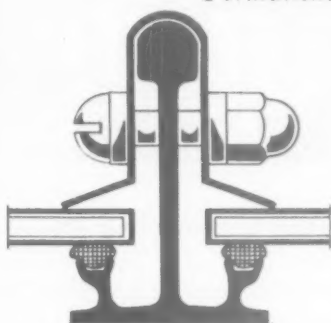
(c) The Weathering of Critical Points of a Building

This brings me to my third factor, in some ways the most important. The weathering of critical points of a building—this resolves itself to the question of more thorough detailing—the 1/8 in. scales are not the end of a job—for it is the 1 in. details and full size that decide whether your building will look attractive in 20 years time—or even five years time—or just a stained, cracked and faded caricature of the building you originally designed. This is not intended to be a lecture on building construction—although perhaps it has seemed rather like one so far—and I do not intend to give you a set of good details for parapet walls, window sills and other critical points of a building—but rather, I want to outline briefly the method of approach to the problem and some of the danger points. The chief problem in this matter of weathering is of course rain, and there is a general accepted technique in this country of sloping sur-

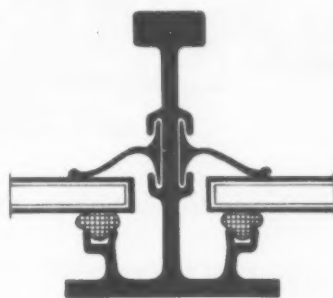
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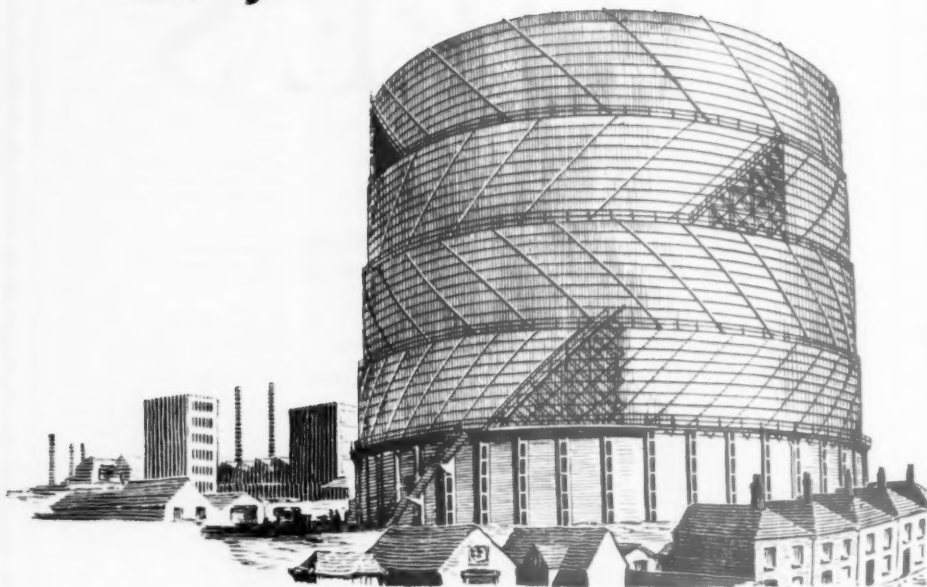


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faces and drips for horizontal surfaces, etc., although the efficiency of some of these is at the best doubtful. The result being deterioration in appearance of the sort we have already mentioned. The Continental technique for the treatment of these surfaces is in the form of metal or other impervious weathering, designed so that moisture is discharged without causing staining on building face. They are used for window sills, sining courses, canopies, cornices, projecting members, and copings, and their function is to protect any horizontal surface and its junction with neighbouring surfaces from moisture penetration, and to discharge the collected moisture so that staining does not result. To meet these requirements a weathering should have an impermeable surface preferably jointless or any joints should be made so that water cannot get through them. Where horizontal and vertical joints meet, the weathering must be turned up and joined in such a manner to the vertical surface that moisture will be easily drained away from the vertical to the horizontal. A slight slope must be provided with a generous water shedding edge or dip, with a good turn up at the ends to prevent a collection of water being slow over the edge at this point. The most obvious material for such weatherings is metal and zinc, aluminium, copper and lead, have all been used with success. Zinc is particularly popular on the Continent. I mentioned this question of detailing several times earlier and it is of particular importance when rendered surfaces are used to prevent staining and other forms of deterioration.

Let me refer to a few danger points which need careful attention in relation to general deterioration through lack of care in detailing—without having time to give ready-made solutions, (1) Parapet walls and copings, these often show damp stains, and if rendered the rendering often fails entirely through faulty construction. (2) Window openings—badly detailed sills cause staining and badly designed fixings, etc., lead to damp walls. (3) Plinths if inadequately considered can give rise to damp walls, stained wall surfaces or even surface failure. (4) Canopies and eaves overhangs if inadequately designed can result in discoloured and damp walls, and can become badly stained themselves or even in extreme cases structural failure can occur if reinforcement corrodes after the concrete cover has spalled off or fractured.

(d) The Problem of Thermal Movement

The final factor which must be considered both in relation to appearance and structural stability is the question of thermal movement. Nearly all materials expand when heated and contract on cooling, and most materials expand and contract at differing rates. This often occurs where reinforced concrete roofs are used in conjunction with load bearing

brick walls, and I have seen cases where the top courses of brickwork in a wall have been pushed out of plumb a measurable distance by the expansion of a roof slab. There are two alternative solutions, one to allow the roof to slide over the supporting wall, this means that the slab and the wall—including any inside and outside surfacing—must not be rigidly fixed together. I have used a felt pad between the flat roof and the top of the wall with success. Or two, for continuous expansion joints to be formed in the roof, walls and partitions, to make an effective and complete structural break. A light coloured top surface to a roof will help to keep roof temperature down and so minimise thermal movement. In all large structures expansion joints should be designed in the first instance, where unbroken walls exceed 100-150 ft. in length, failure by buckling may result. Wide span structures such as shell concrete roofs should also be carefully considered in relation to expansion joints, and long low walls restrained by high blocks at either end are also cases where expansion must be considered. Long runs of steel framing restrained at the ends, for example a range of north light roofs with multi-storey buildings at the ends are also cases in point. The solution to this problem is again one of detailing, and drawings must be checked carefully in their later stages so that danger points can be noted and adequate precautions taken to avoid failure. Damage due to thermal movement occurs when movement is restrained so that high stress concentrations are built up in the structure, and such conditions must be considered specifically.

One point of particular interest in modern buildings is the frequent cracking of glass panels and glass bricks. This is due to either inadequate allowance for expansion or panels that are too large.

I feel that this talk has already overrun its allotted time limit and although I realize that I have dealt sketchily with many factors relating to the subject under consideration, I fear that many important points have been completely overlooked. However, I trust that what I have said tonight will help to impress upon you the importance of some of these problems and help you to appreciate a little more fully some of the difficulties that you will have to face when you are called upon to design buildings that are not only attractive on paper, but which will remain attractive for many years after they have been completed and maybe after you and I are forgotten. Most buildings have a useful life far exceeding the life of their designer and by due considerations of the small points of great importance, we as architects can ensure that our buildings grow old gracefully even if their designers do not, and that any change in the faces of our buildings will be the sort of improvement which is associated with maturity rather than the change associated with deterioration and decay.

IN PARLIAMENT

Lords' Debate on the Development Charge

THE prospect of improving the administration of the Town and Country Planning Act, in default of new legislation to amend it in the present Parliament, emerged from a debate in the House of Lords on March 22, when it was stated that the new Minister, Mr. Dalton, had arranged an investigation for this purpose.

LORD LLEWELLIN initiated the debate by calling attention to the manner in which the Act was working, in practice, and asking the Government what conclusions they had reached in regard either to the necessity for an Amending Act or to an improvement in the administration of the present Act.

One point he made, in reference to a previous debate last November, was that if planning permission was given for a new building, for example of 1,000 sq. ft., the Central Land Board levied a development charge on that and on an extra 100 sq. ft., to take account of the fact that the Act permitted an increase of 10 per cent. (without development charge arising) to allow for minor improvements, under what was called the "10 per cent. tolerance" provision. His chief argument, however, which he illustrated with a number of actual examples, was that in the Central Land Board they had apparently established a robot. It seemed that, except for giving the Board general directions on matters of principle, the Minister either thought he had not, or if he had would not use, control on individual cases. Parliament should see that the Minister was able to interfere, and give the Board directions, even on individual cases. There would be no contentment under this Act until there was some tribunal to which anyone could take a grievance. He contended also that the administration of the Act had put up the price of land for industrial undertakings; and the excessive delay was caused because, since planning authorities were allowed two months in which to deal with an application, they generally took the whole of that time, whether it was necessary or not, and so what was intended as the maximum became also the minimum.

The remainder of his argument was that the Central Land Board should be enabled not to exact the full development charge, or indeed any such charge at all, where it was proved that a man had already bought the site for his house at building value. It was his belief that the Act would never work satisfactorily until the building charge on buildings was dropped entirely and retained only in the case of development of undeveloped land. Such an alteration would secure for the Act the assent of the vast majority of people.

Speaking for the Government, LORD

MACDONALD, Paymaster-General, said that so far as the Central Land Board were aware, no district valuer acting on their behalf had ever fixed a charge of £x and then added 10 per cent. to it as representing the value of the "tolerance" clause. If any valuer had done anything of the kind he must have been quite wrong. It had not been the practice to arrive at a charge and then add to it in respect of the various exemption rights given under the Exemption Regulations; still less had it been the practice to add a straight 10 per cent. because of the right to a free extension. On the question of delay he had much sympathy with the complaints that had been made, and was in some cases quite unable to understand the delay. He promised that inquiries would be made into individual cases to see why they had been so long delayed, and that every effort would be made to speed up local authority machinery and to see that appeals were dealt with more speedily.

For obvious reasons the House would not expect that legislation would be introduced to deal with this subject this session—and he was not sure about this Parliament; certainly the available time was not likely to afford any scope for amending the Act. They had been

administering a difficult and cumbrous Act for only a short period, and it was not surprising that weaknesses had been found here and there. It was intended to investigate the possibility of improving the administration. There was a "new broom" at the Ministry, and it would soon begin operating. The new Minister had arranged with the chairman of the Central Land Board to go into the whole question of administration. He had given them fairly wide terms of reference. The Board would be able to submit such proposals as they considered practicable for changes in administration calculated to reduce criticism of the method of assessment of charge. Possible changes which might involve amendment of the regulations, particularly the exemption regulations, would be included in the Board's review.

VISCOUNT GAGE renewed his appeal that the principles on which the Central Land Board were supposed to work should be put into statutory form. There was of course a theoretical basis—the difference between two valuations, but largely owing to the restrictions on building now existing the valuation of building land was largely a matter of guesswork. It had been described in a paper read to the

Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors as "an attempt to assess the unpredictable by reference to the unknown." Presumably the unsatisfactory basis was the reason the Central Land Board had invented a whole additional series of rules of assessment. Private enterprise was unlikely to settle down under such an arbitrary system. Another reason why it was desirable to codify the principles on which the Board worked was that it was largely because of the way the development charge was being levied that town planning seemed in a fair way to becoming one of the accepted party issues.

LORD CHORLEY said that the Act was seriously holding up development altogether. It had caused what in an exaggerated phrase had been called "a strike of property owners." There was no incentive for the owner to sell, and property would not become available for development until the "strike" was broken by the widespread use of compulsory powers, or until there was greater inducement to owners to sell. If it were not broken, it might become necessary to undertake the much more heroic remedy of nationalisation.

(From our Parliamentary Correspondent)

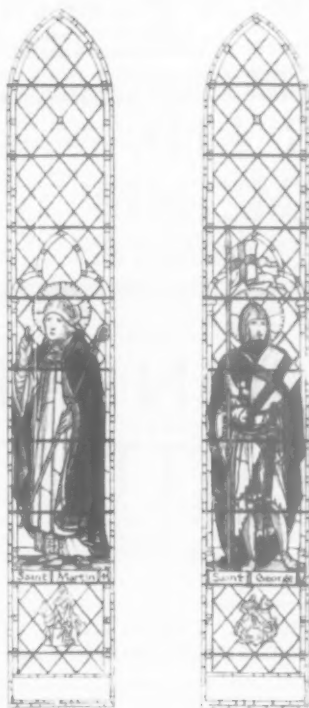


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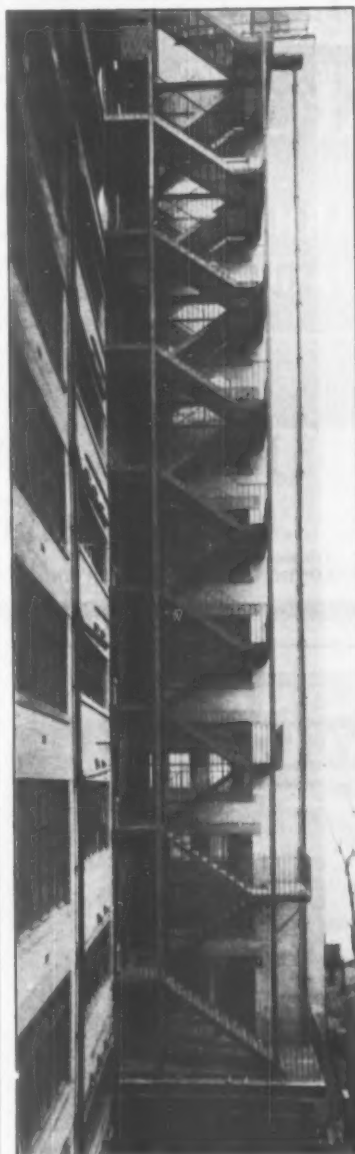
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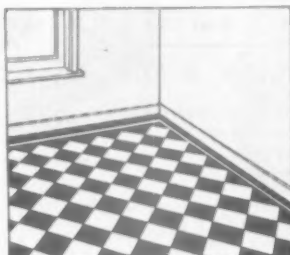
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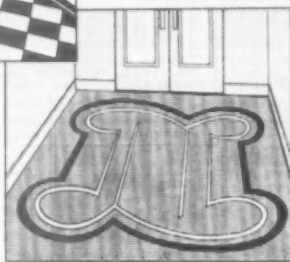
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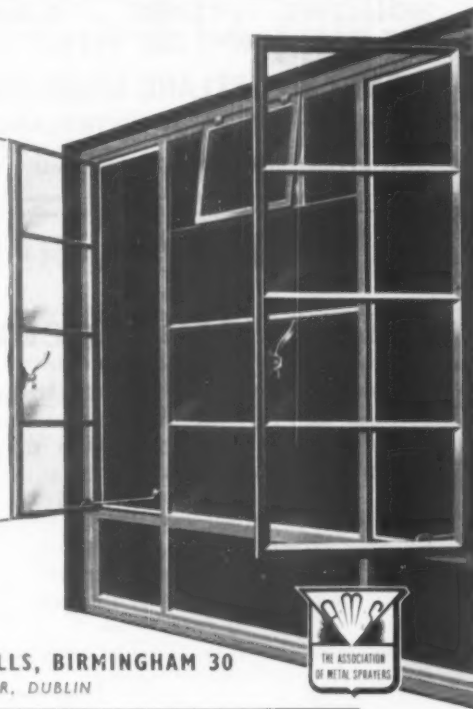
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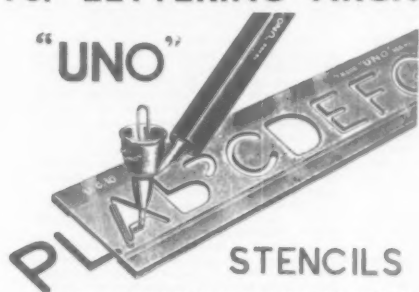
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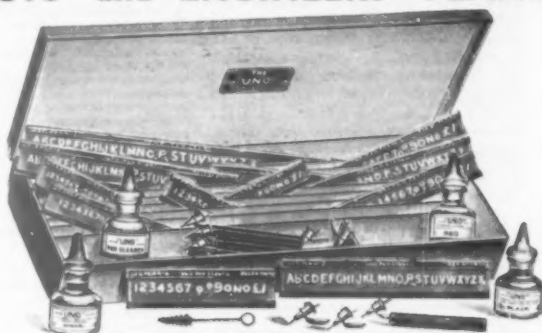
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OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS
LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL.

APPLICATIONS are invited for unfilled positions of (i) ARCHITECT, Grade III (salaries up to £700 a year) and (ii) ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANTS (salaries up to £580 a year) in the Housing and Valuation Department. Commencing salaries in either grade will be determined according to qualifications and experience. Engagement will be subject to the Local Government Superannuation Act, and successful candidates will be eligible for consideration for appointment to the permanent staff on the occurrence of vacancies. Successful candidates will be required to undertake the design, layout and preparation of working drawings for housing schemes (cottages and multi-storey flats) and will be employed in the Housing Architect's Division. Preference will be given to candidates holding a recognised professional qualification.

Forms of application may be obtained from the Director of Housing, The County Hall, Westminster Bridge, S.E.1 (stamped addressed envelope required, and quote ref. G.R.33) Enquiries to: [4397]

MINISTRY OF WORKS.

THERE are vacancies in the Chief Architect's Division for Architectural Assistants with recognised training and fair experience. Successful candidates will be employed in London and elsewhere on a wide variety of Public Buildings, including Atomic Energy and other Research Establishments, Telephone Exchanges, and Housing.

Similar vacancies also exist for Assistants with specialised knowledge and experience in masonry, particularly in detailing and joining of arched and carved stonework.

Salary: Architectural Assistants £200-£525 per annum. Leading Architectural Assistants £500-£625, plus overtime. Starting day will be assessed according to age, qualifications and experience. These rates are for London; a deduction is made in the Provinces.

Although these are not established posts some of them have long-term possibilities and competitions are held periodically to fill established vacancies.

Apply in writing, stating age, nationality, full details of experience, and locality preferred, to Chief Architect, W.G.10/T, Ministry of Works, Abell House, London, S.W.1. [4005]

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CRAWLEY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION require ASSISTANT ARCHITECT, Grade IV, £550 x £10 - £750, with contributory superannuation. Applicants should be fully qualified architects with good general architectural experience. A knowledge of town planning is desirable but not essential. Form of application and particulars should be obtained from the Chief Architect, A. G. Shepherd, Fulmer, M.A. Barch. F.R.I.B.A., A.M.P.E., Broadfield, Crawley, Sussex to whom applications must be submitted by 18th April, 1950. C. A. C. TURNER, Chief Executive.

18th March, 1950.

[4390]

GLENROTH DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION.

APPLICATIONS are invited for an appointment of SENIOR ARCHITECT. Salary £750 by annual increments of £50 to £900 per annum. Applicants should be corporate members of the R.I.B.A., and should have had experience of all types of public buildings appropriate to New Town development. An additional Town Planning qualification will be an advantage.

The Corporation intend to make housing provision and will give all assistance in securing temporary accommodation.

The post is supernumerary under the Local Government Superannuation (Scotland) Act, 1937, and the successful candidate will require to pass a medical examination.

Canvassing, directly or indirectly, of Members of the Corporation will constitute an absolute disqualification.

Applications, giving full particulars of the candidate's age, qualifications and experience, together with copies of not more than three recent testimonials, must reach the Secretary, Glenroth Development Corporation, Auchmuty House, Marinch, not later than 5th April, 1950.

22nd March, 1950.

[4389]

COUNTY BOROUGH OF CARLISLE.

CITY ENGINEER'S DEPARTMENT.

APPOINTMENT OF SENIOR ASSISTANT
ARCHITECT.

APPLICATIONS are invited for the above appointment on the permanent staff at a salary of £595-£660 (A.P.T. Grade VI).

Applicants should be Members of the Royal Institute of British Architects and must have had good general experience in the design and construction of schools.

The successful candidate will be engaged at the outset on Educational Works, but may be required also for General Architectural Work or Housing. Experience of this character, therefore, would be an advantage.

Housing accommodation will be provided for the successful applicant if required.

Forms of application and full particulars of duties and conditions of appointment can be obtained from the City Engineer, 18 Fisher Street, Carlisle, to whom they must be returned not later than Friday, 28th April, 1950.

H. D. ROBERTSON, Town Clerk.

Town Clerk's Office.

15 Fisher Street, Carlisle.

[4393]

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL.

ARCHITECT'S DEPARTMENT.

APPLICATIONS are invited for positions of ARCHITECT, Grade III (£550-£700) and TECHNICAL ASSISTANT (up to £580) for work on new schools and other public buildings. The positions are supernumerary. Candidates for Grade III positions should possess professional qualifications. Application forms from The Architect (A.R.P.A.), The County Hall, Westminster Bridge, S.E.1, enclosing stamped addressed business envelope. Canvassing disqualifies. [4384] [4097]

ESSEX EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

SOUTH EAST ESSEX TECHNICAL COLLEGE
AND SCHOOL OF ART.

APPLICATIONS are invited for the post of LECTURER in SURVEYING in the Arts Department of the College, which is approved by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors for full-time and part-time courses leading to the Intermediate Examinations in Valuations, Estate Management, Quantities and Building Surveying.

Candidates must be experienced in one or more of these sub-divisions and have passed at least the Intermediate Degree or Diploma stage.

Salary: Burnham Technical Scale £300 x £75 - £555, with increments being made for approved professional and teaching experience and war service, plus London Allowance, 0.15 to £40 and additions for graduate qualifications and training.

Further particulars and form of application to be obtained from the Clerk to the Governors, South-East Essex Technical College, Longbridge Road, Dagenham, to whom the application should be returned, completed, within 14 days of the appearance of this advertisement.

D. N. BUNGLEY.

Acting Chief Education Officer. [4397]

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Candidates must possess the appropriate professional qualifications and should have had both teaching and practical experience.

Salary scale commences at £703 per annum, rising by annual increments of £25 to a maximum of £848 plus London Allowance and possibly additional allowances in respect of graduation and training, subject to the usual deduction for superannuation.

Further particulars and form of application, which should be returned within two weeks of the appearance of this advertisement, may be obtained by sending a stamped addressed business envelope to the undersigned.

J. C. JONES, Director of Education. [4386]

CITY AND COUNTY OF KINGSTON
UPON HULL.

APPLICATIONS are invited for ASSISTANT ARCHITECT, A.P.T. Grade VI (£595-£660). The appointment will be subject to one month's notice on either side and to the National Scheme of Conditions of Service. Application forms to be obtained from the undersigned, should be returned complete on or before 17th April, 1950.

ANDREW RANKIN, A.R.I.B.A.,

City Architect.

Guildhall, Kingston upon Hull. [4387]

COUNTY BOROUGH OF SOUTHEND-ON-SEA
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Particulars of the post and forms of application may be obtained from the undersigned (S.A.C.) and should be returned not later than fourteen days after the appearance of this advertisement.

H. BOYES WATSON.

Chief Education Officer.

Education Office,
Warrior Square, Southend-on-Sea. [4388]
21st March, 1950.

THE RAILWAY EXECUTIVE invite applications from Associate Members of the R.I.B.A. for the following appointments in the Office of the Architect to the Executive at Marylebone Road, London, N.W.1—

- POST No. R.90: SENIOR ASSISTANT ARCHITECT.
- POST No. R.95: ASSISTANT ARCHITECT.

Applicants must be able designers and experienced in the preparation of working drawings and details. In the case of (a) considerable practical experience in connection with large contracts is desirable.

The salary range offered for position (a) is in the region of £900-£1,100 per annum and for position (b) in the region of £600-£750 according to the qualifications of the successful candidates, who may be eligible for membership of a Superannuation Scheme subject to the requirements of the Rules. Application, which should quote the appropriate post number and give full particulars of education, experience and age, should be sent within 14 days to the Secretary Railway Executive, 222 Marylebone Road, London, N.W.1. It is emphasised that any approach except in the form of a direct and written application from candidates themselves will disqualify an applicant. [4396]

BERKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

APPLICATIONS are invited for the following appointments in the County Architect's Department—

(a) TWO ASSISTANT COUNTY ARCHITECTS. Salary Grade IX, £790-£900. Candidates must be Members of the Royal Institute of British Architects. They must be capable of taking charge of such architectural work as may be allotted to them by the County Architect, must have high ability in planning, design and construction and be able to supervise and control staff.

(b) ASSISTANT ARCHITECT. Salary Grade VI, £595-£680. Candidates should be Members of the Royal Institute of British Architects, with considerable experience in the design and construction of modern buildings and be capable of taking charge of large contracts.

(c) ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT. Salary Grade III, £450-£495. Candidates must be of Intermediate R.I.B.A. standard and be thoroughly experienced in the preparation of working and detail drawings for both new buildings and alterations to existing buildings.

(d) ASSISTANT QUANTITY SURVEYOR. Salary Grade I, £390-£435. Candidates should have had general experience of the work of a Quantity Surveyor's office and should be capable of taking off.

Application forms and further particulars can be obtained from the County Architect, Wilton House, Parklands, Reading, to whom they should be returned completed by noon on Monday, 17th April, 1950.

H. J. C. NEOBARD,
Clerk of the Council.

Shire Hall, Reading.
March, 1950. [4394]

BOROUGH OF SUTTON AND CHEAM.

BOROUGH ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR'S
DEPARTMENT.
APPOINTMENT OF ARCHITECTURAL
ASSISTANT.

APPLICATIONS are invited for the appointment of an ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT in the Department of the Borough Engineer and Surveyor at a salary in accordance with Grade V of the A.P.T. Division of the National Scale of Salaries (£520 per annum, rising on approved service by two annual increments of £15 and one of £20 to a maximum of £570 per annum plus London "Weighting" payable at the rate of £20 or £30 per annum according to age). Housing accommodation may be made available if necessary.

Applicants should be Registered Architects, with good general experience in public buildings and housing.

The appointment, which is terminable by one month's notice in writing on either side, is on the permanent staff of the Corporation and is subject to the provisions of the Local Government Superannuation Act, 1917. The successful candidate will be required to pass a medical examination.

Forms of application may be obtained from Mr. N. H. Michel, A.M.I.C.E., M.I.Mun.E., Borough Engineer and Surveyor, to whom they should be returned, accompanied by copies of three recent testimonials, not later than Wednesday, 19th April, 1950, endorsed "Architectural Assistant."

Canvassing, directly or indirectly, will be a disqualification.

A. PRIESTLEY, Town Clerk.

Municipal Offices,
Sutton, Surrey.
March, 1950. [4395]

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL.

APPLICATIONS are invited for an appointment in the Buildings Department of an ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT at a salary in A.P.T. V, £520-£570.

Applicants, who must be members of the Royal Institute of British Architects, should for preference have completed a full-time course at a recognised School of Architecture and be conversant with methods of research as the appointment will be in connection with a new educational project. Previous experience with a local authority is not essential but experience on school buildings would be an advantage.

The post is supernumerary and the successful candidate will be required to pass a medical examination.

Application forms, obtainable from the County Architect, Springfield, Maidstone, should be delivered to him not later than the 17th April, 1950.

W. L. PLATT,
Clerk of the County Council.
County Hall, Maidstone.
25th March 1950. [4400]

CITY OF HERFORD.

APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF ARCHITECTURAL
AND PLANNING ASSISTANT.

APPLICATIONS are invited for the above supernumerary appointment on the permanent staff of the City Surveyor. The appointment is subject to the Conditions of Service prescribed by the National Joint Council for Local Authorities' Administrative, Professional, Technical and Clerical Services, the salary being in accordance with Grade V thereof.

Applicants should hold recognised Architectural and Planning qualifications as prescribed in Appendix B to the Conditions of Service mentioned above.

Forms of application and particulars may be obtained from Mr. F. Margerson, A.M.I.C.E., City Surveyor, Town Hall, Hereford, to whom completed applications must be returned, in suitable endorsed envelopes, not later than Tuesday, the 21st April, 1950.

Canvassing disqualifies.
J. B. FELTHAM, Town Clerk.
Town Hall, Hereford.
27th March, 1950. [4401]

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL.

ARCHITECT'S DEPARTMENT
PLANNING STAFF.

APPLICATIONS are invited for positions of PLANNING OFFICER, Grade I (£580-£660), Grade II (£570-£640), Grade III (£550-£700), and TECHNICAL ASSISTANT (up to £580). The positions are supernumerary. Candidates for Grade I positions should have architectural and town planning qualifications and will be engaged on Reconstruction Areas and Detailed Planning. Candidates for Grade II and III positions should have architectural or surveying qualifications with town planning qualifications in addition and will be engaged on Development Plan, Development Applications and Detailed Planning. Technical Assistants are required for work on Development Applications and Detailed Planning.

Particulars and application forms from The Architect (A.R.P.P.), The County Hall, Westminster Bridge, S.E.1, enclosing stamped addressed footcap envelope. Canvassing disqualifies. (195). [4099]

MINISTRY OF WORKS.

VACANCIES exist for SENIOR and LEADING ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANTS in London, at Risley (Warrington) and at Capenhurst (Cheshire), for drawing office duties in connection with important Research Establishments.

Candidates should be of British nationality and have had a recognised architectural training and good experience.

There are also vacancies for first class Draughtsmen in the Senior Architectural Assistant Grade.

Salary Senior Architectural Assistants—London, £625-£750 per annum; Risley and Capenhurst, £595-£720 per annum.

Salary Leading Architectural Assistants—London, £580-£625 per annum; Risley and Capenhurst, £470-£595 per annum.

Hostel accommodation, for men, at reasonable cost, is available at Risley, and there is a possibility of housing being available in the near future at Capenhurst.

Apply in writing, stating locality desired, age, training and experience, to: Chief Architect, W.G. 10/A.N., Ministry of Works, Abell House, John Islip Street, London, S.W.1. [4096]

HUNTINGDONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING
(ARCHITECTURAL) ASSISTANT.

APPLICATIONS are invited for the appointment of an ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT on the staff of the County Planning Officer, at a salary in accordance with Grade A.P.T. VI of the National Scale of Salaries, i.e. £595 to £660 per annum.

Applications, stating age, education, technical qualifications, and experience, past and present appointments, accompanied by copies of two recent testimonials or the names and addresses of two referees, to be submitted as soon as possible to: Mr. T. H. Longstaff, M.I.C.E., F.R.I.B.A., M.I.P.I., County Planning Officer, Walsden House, Huntingdon, but in any case not later than Monday, 17th April, 1950.

JOHN KELLY,
Clerk of the County Council,
County Buildings, Huntingdon.
21st March 1950. [4402]

CITY OF BRADFORD.

CITY ARCHITECT'S DEPARTMENT
APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY CITY
ARCHITECT.

APPLICATIONS are invited for the above post in the office of the City Architect.

The commencing salary is £960 per annum, the minimum and maximum salary and annual increments to be the subject of consideration in due course in the light of any new National Scales for Chief Officers.

Applicants must be members of the R.I.B.A., and have had considerable professional experience and also administrative experience in a Local Government Architect's Department, or in the office of leading private architects.

The Department is responsible for the work of all Committees with the exception of housing.

The above appointment will be subject to the Local Government Superannuation Act, 1917, and the successful candidate will be required to pass a medical examination.

Application form may be obtained from the City Architect's Department, Town Hall, Bradford, and the completed form, together with copies of two testimonials, must be returned to me not later than Friday, the 14th April, 1950.

W. H. LEATHAM, Town Clerk.
Town Hall, Bradford. [4403]

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL.

APPLICATIONS are invited for two appointments as SENIOR BUILDINGS SURVEYORS in the Buildings Department in A.P.T. VIII (£585-£760).

The posts are supernumerary and the successful candidates will be required to pass a medical examination.

Applicants must—

(1) be Licentiates of the Institute of Builders by examination or have passed the examination for Building Surveyors of the Royal Institute of British Architects or hold an equivalent qualification.

(2) be capable of preparing drawings, specifications and estimates for maintenance and minor works covering all types of County buildings and of supervising the execution of such works.

(3) have had experience in administrative work of a similar department under a local authority.

The Council is unable to assist in the provision of housing accommodation.

Applications, on forms obtainable from the County Architect, Springfield, Maidstone, must be delivered to him not later than the 17th April, 1950.

W. L. PLATT,
Clerk of the County Council.
County Hall, Maidstone.
28th March, 1950. [4405]

ARCHITECTURAL APPOINTMENTS
VACANT

ASSISTANT required by London Architects. Must be capable of producing quick and imaginative sketch designs for a wide range of work. High standard of draughtsmanship essential. Write stating age, qualifications and salary required to Box 3118, The Architect and Building News. [4378]

SCHERRER & Hicks F.R.I.B.A., 19 Cavendish Square, W.1, require 1 Senior and 1 Junior Assistant in their London office (Museum 1105) and two Junior Assistants and one Senior Assistant in their Manchester office (Eades 1967). [4379]

WANTED immediately, Assistant, Intermediate standard, some office experience. Varied practice. Apply E. B. Mullan, B.A., F.R.I.B.A., 12 Upper Berkeley Street, W.1. (Paid) 7110. [4404]

SERVICES OFFERED

QUALIFIED Surveyor available for taking off, abstract, bill, and preliminary estimates. Accurate work. Terms on application. Box 3110, The Architect and Building News. [4397]

ACCOMMODATION

OFFICE and studio accommodation, 700-800 square feet. Ground floor. Studio 400 square feet. Small studio approximately 200 square feet. Office approximately 200 square feet. Three years' lease optional for renewal. Rental £550 per annum. £250 for cost of complete conversion and redecoration—Rene GERARD 8574. [4401]

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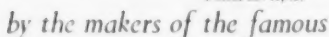
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Versatility of the ALUMINEX patent glazing system

The designers of the Aluminex Patent Glazing system intended to invent something more than a new "dry glazing" technique. They set out to re-think patent glazing from first principles and create a versatile form of glazing of great simplicity that would be an integral part of the design of a building, not a mere appendage.

When the system was designed Architects were invited to take the extruded aluminium alloy glazing bar, the glazing cover strip, the Zed weathering and other fittings and clothe their buildings in walls of glass or ranging series of roof lights, making the appearance and function of Aluminex contribute directly to the overall styling of each building.

The response of Architects to this invitation was immediate. Indeed, the designers' first notions of the possible uses of Aluminex were soon left far behind. New potentialities were discovered by imaginative minds and the process of creative development is still going on.

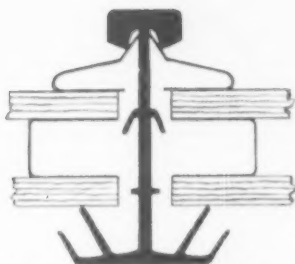
Architects and Aluminex

On some occasions the Architect's conception of the role of Aluminex patent glazing in his building constituted a new challenge to the engineers. For instance, when Sir Percy Thomas & Son, F.R.I.B.A., designed the Cold Mill building of the Steel Company of Wales' great plant at Margam, they decided that Aluminex patent glazing provided all the features required for the distinctive sidewall lights of the building. The general character of the building is enhanced by the neat and clean lines of these curved-top "Cascade" windows shown below.

This special weathering detail designed for the Margam Cold Strip Mill enabled panes of glass to be butted together without opening in a new and weather-tight joint. It was the Architects' "Cascade" effect. It was successful. See photograph below.



But the technical problems which confronted the Aluminex engineers were unexpected. A special virtue of the system had always been considered to be its long, straight lines. Now a curved effect was required. The effect was to be gained by a succession of straight panes but it was inadmissible to break the outline of the "Cascade" by allowing panes to overlap each other in a "lobster back" pattern. Therefore the panes had to be butted together. This raised serious difficulties in maintaining the watertightness of the installation. For this job the



This is an Aluminex Patent Glazing bar designed for double glazing. It is of special aluminium alloy extruded to the profile patented by Williams & Williams Ltd. The thermal efficiency of double glazing built with Aluminex is high.

Aluminex engineers designed a new weathering detail. This was in conformity with the normal policy of the Division—to take every necessary action in order to reproduce, by means of Aluminex, the Architect's own design. This new weathering detail took the form shown in the drawing on the left. It is a development of the standard Aluminex Zed weathering extrusion which is one of the notable features of this glazing system.

Large scale glazing

This remarkable versatility of Aluminex applies also to the size of the area to be glazed. The biggest composite plate glass window in the world is the north sidewall window of the Beaham Langar at Filton (1,052 ft. long by 50 ft. high). Yet it is made of normal Aluminex glazing as used in the smallest of industrial buildings.

There is a further consideration. Aluminex is also designed for double glazing. This has high insulating properties as well as lightness and attractive appearance to recommend it.

Continuous ventilation

Yet another aspect of this versatile patent glazing system is the provision of ventilators hung on continuous hinges. Aluminex sidewall and roof opening lights are constructed in lengths of 200 ft. for manual operation and in 300 ft. lengths when the opening gear is electrically driven.

Therefore it is no exaggeration to say that when an Architect turns to Aluminex patent glazing he has at his service a method of construction capable of versatile applications. It is, moreover, a method susceptible of continuing imaginative development particularly in the field of industrial architecture. The company is actively interested in all such developments and offers the fullest co-operation with all Architects who might wish to discuss the realisation of new ideas and projects.

For further information please communicate with The Aluminex Division of Williams & Williams Limited, Reliance Works, Chester. Telephone: Chester 36800 (7 lines). Telegrams: Reliance, Chester. And at Victoria House, Southampton Row, London, W.C.1. Telephone: HOLborn 9861.



A detail of the Cold Strip Mill of the Steel Company of Wales, at Margam, showing the new "Cascade" windows in Aluminex Patent Glazing. Architects: Sir Percy Thomas & Son, F.R.I.B.A., Engineers: W. S. Atkins & Partners.



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